

Alpine Public Library Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
5:30 PM
AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room and Zoom

Mission: The Alpine Public Library works to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning. We endeavor to create and maintain a welcoming facility with relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world.

Vision: The Alpine Public Library envisions a future in which individuals and families are engaged, lifelong learners.

Board Members Present: Kathy Donnell, Betsy Helesic, Don Wetterauer, Linda Bryant, Judy Bowers, Mary Bennett, Isabel Jones, Ellen Ruggia, Chris Ruggia

Board Members Excused: Martin Sandate, Greg Henington

A. Call to order - Linda Bryant called the meeting to order.

B. New business

1. **Board Member changes** - Linda Bryant announced that Jaime Escuder resigned the Board. She asked current members to consider potential future members.
2. **Dancing With Big Bend's Stars Report** - Chris Ruggia reported that there should be about a \$9000 yield for fundraising efforts; The night was a great success. There weren't as many dancers as previous years, but enough to make it feel like an evening. The planning committee will meet for a post mortem on the event organization to make improvements for next year. Nash, Cullen, Rebecca, Heather, and Kathy did an amazing job and worked very hard to pull it off.

C. Changes to agenda - Linda Bryant asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Chris Ruggia recommended we provide a Dancing With Big Bend's Stars update as New Business. It was added.

D. Introduction of guests and announcements - Linda Bryant did not have guests to announce. She shared a Thank You card she found from the 2019 Dancing With Alpine's Stars event. Isabel Jones reported that she has spoken with former Brewster County judge Eleazar R. Cano and he is interested in attending a future meeting.

E. Approve the minutes - Linda Bryant asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Donnell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Judy Bowers seconded. Discussion took place. Betsy Helesic offered to get the meeting minutes to the Board more quickly moving forward rather than wait for inclusion in the Consent Agenda. Minutes were approved as presented.

F. Consent Agenda - Linda Bryant asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chris Ruggia observed that looking at the budget, our revenues are mostly below predicted, but expenses are tracking with the budget. Don Wetterauer stated that is typical. He mentioned as an example that we paid two years of audit fees instead of one. Budgets are

fluid, but of course we work to increase revenue all the time. From the Director's Report, Kathy Donnell asked for clarification about recommendations made by the City Manager Megan Antrim. Wetterauer explained that she offered some ideas to reduce costs. Chris Ruggia moved to accept consent agenda. Ellen Ruggia seconded. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

G. Ongoing business

- 1. Direct Mail promotion** - Linda Bryant asked if there was new information to report about the Direct Mail promotion. Chris Ruggia reported he spoke with Don Wetterauer and Linda Bryant about a future plan to include information about annual achievements by the Library, possibly timed with Giving Tuesday in November. Judy Ford has been collecting the return mails and she's been entering them into the database as she goes along. Judy Ford has been in touch with information about the database list. She will request a partial refund based on the quality of the list. Ellen Ruggia asked if there was an update on funds raised. Last reported was about \$3400. Betsy Helesic reported she did not receive the mailer.
- 2. Building Committee** - Linda Bryant asked for a report from Don Wetterauer on behalf of the Building Committee. Wetterauer stated the Library received the \$300,000 check; that the Library achieved the match for Abell-Hanger \$100,000; and he applied for \$100,000 furniture grant from the Tocker Foundation. He expects to hear soon about the last one. He reported that the City of Alpine Building Inspector has decided the project must be reduced to under 12,000 square feet, or a sprinkler system will be required. Chris Ruggia moved that Don Wetterauer work with the architect and Rick Stephens to keep the building under 12,000 square feet. Betsy Helesic seconded. Approved.
- 3. Strategic Planning Update** - Linda Bryant reported she did not receive information from any Board Members regarding strategic plan brainstorming. She wants more feedback so the plan is more cohesive and from the Board of Directors. Don Wetterauer and Linda Bryant reported that Succession Planning is also important as part of this process. Linda Bryant reported that staff said a lunch break or snack would be something we could offer to area youth. Many ideas require additional staffing and funding, so the strategic plan should address how to grow both of those areas. Betsy Helesic asked for a copy of the plan. Ellen Ruggia made copies for everyone who was without. Chris Ruggia brought up the idea of adding endowments to future planning. Don Wetterauer shared that the Library has started an endowment. Linda Bryant again requested ideas. Mary Bennett, Isabel Jones, Don Wetterauer, and Linda Bryant will meet next week with input from the Board.

A. Building maintenance and repairs

Technology needs and growth

Evaluation of previous plans

Fundraising

Board recruitment

Staff pay and recruitment

Relevance to the community

4. **Bingo at the Granada** - Linda Bryant asked for an update on the Bingo at the Granada proposal. Mary Bennett and Chris Ruggia explained the requirements to participate. Mary Bennett moved that we respectfully decline the opportunity to participate citing the amount of paperwork and requirements. Ellen Ruggia seconded. Approved. Chris Ruggia will report back to the Granada.

H. Next meeting date - Thursday, August 10, 2023

I. Adjournment - Linda Bryant asked for a motion to adjourn. Kathy Donnell moved to adjourn. Judy Bowers seconded. Approved.

2023 Board of Directors:

Linda Bryant, President (2024)

Isabel Jones, Vice President (2025)

Ellen Ruggia, Treasurer (2024)

Betsy Evans, Secretary (2024)

Kathy Donnell (2023)

Mary Bennett (2025)

Judy Bowers (2024)

Chris Ruggia, Friends of APL Representative

Greg Henington, Brewster Co. Representative

Martin Sandate, City of Alpine Representative