

Alpine Public Library Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 9, 2024
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: Marilyn Gruebel, Ralph Gruebel, Don Wetterauer, Linda Bryant, Mary Bennett, Judy Bowers, Betsy Helesic, Maggie Bootman

Board Members Excused: Isabel Jones

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

B. Changes to the agenda - Linda Bryant asked for changes to the agenda. Don Wetterauer asked to add a discussion about Giving Tuesday to New Business. Added.

C. Introduction of guests and announcements - Linda Bryant acknowledged there were no guests and no announcements.

D. Approve minutes - Linda Bryant asked for the review and approval of minutes from the May meeting. Marilyn and Ralph Gruebel provided corrections. Judy Bowers moved to accept minutes as corrected. Ralph Gruebel seconded. Passed.

1. Approve March meeting minutes

E. Consent Agenda - Linda Bryant asked if anyone wanted to discuss items on the Consent Agenda. Ralph Gruebel clarified items in the financial report. Mary Bennett moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Judy Bowers seconded. Passed.

F. New Business

1. Assisting with Kids Program Event - Linda Bryant shared that APL hosts special incentive programs all year long, but increases volume in the summer season. Saturday, May 18, the Library is kicking off summer programs with an ice cream social in the library from 10:30-2:30. She shared that they are seeking four volunteers and encouraged Board Members to sign up.

2. Policy Manual Review re: weapons - Ralph Gruebel and Don Wetterauer - Linda Bryant stated that she and Don inadvertently left off the weapons policy in the currently posted version of the library policy manual. It was passed in 2015 in conjunction with TSLAC. As a privately owned property 501c(3), Linda stated that the library can decide our status on weapons. Discussion took place. A consensus of Board Members wanted the signs posted as State guidelines. The state does not mandate the words for the Spanish. There was confusion when Ralph Gruebel downloaded the policy manual. When he went through the policy he did not see a

weapons policy. This was a result of a typo from the policy we reviewed and passed in Fall 2023, and the version that got published to the website omitted the weapons policy. Marilyn Gruebel offered that if Board Members want no firearms in the building that we elect to use use 30.05 [Section 30.05 of the Texas Penal Code] at both entrances. Mary Bennett made a motion to re-do the signage to follow Section 30.05 to be placed at both entrances. Betsy Helesic seconded. Passed. Marilyn Gruebel and Ralph Gruebel opposed.

3. **Giving Tuesday** - Linda Bryant postponed this discussion to the June meeting.

G. Ongoing business

1. **Direct Mail promotion debrief (also via email)** - Linda Bryant asked Marilyn and Ralph Gruebel to comment on the current state of Direct Mail. Marilyn Gruebel went through the list most recently and said it is not capturing enough of the community. She advised that the Board stop direct mailing and stick a similar 'ask' in the water and gas bills. Don Wetterauer says that the money for the list was refunded. It brought in \$1100. \$400 for postage and just another under \$100 for the returns. Linda Bryant asked if it would be in our best interest as a public library serving primarily the City of Alpine to stick it in the water and gas bill. The post office has another option called Every Door Direct. It is not personalized and involves no letter - just a postcard. Don Wetterauer does not have more details on that program at this time. Judy Bowers moved that we push pause on Direct Mail efforts and try the gas and water bills, and compare the results. Mary Bennett seconded. Passed.

2. **Building Committee update** - Linda Bryant asked for a building progress update. Don Wetterauer provided one. They are now working on drywall in the teen room. There are expected supply chain issues. McCoy's is having trouble getting some things, but they are still looking at end of June for completion. The lead time for furniture right now is probably the end of August. During July and part of August we can hopefully put things in shape. Staff are hoping to keep computer and other services active throughout the move. There may be a few weeks where things are difficult for everyone. As things shape up, discussions about the move and the party will take place.

3. **Start Local, LLC proposal (to be revisited after Talent show)** - Linda Bryant asked Ralph Gruebel to give recommendations about the Library's relationship with Start Local, LLC. Ralph Gruebel asked for a final count of the proceeds from the Talent Show. The figure is not exact, but Linda Bryant was told \$4400, which was noticeably less than the last time we had this event. The feedback was that communication was poor to nonexistent. Ralph Gruebel tentatively recommended there be a contract in the future with agreed upon terms. Discussion took place and this item was tabled.

4. **Patio Sale debrief** - Linda Bryant moved on to provide a debrief of the patio sale. It worked surprisingly well. It is now called a Flea Market. Marilyn Gruebel suggested both the Library and ReReads be open at the same hours for future sales. The sale was scheduled for the same weekend as the Gem and Mineral Show, Spirits of the West, and Earth Day celebrations. Linda Bryant suggested that we always do it that way. The sale made just over \$2000. It was suggested to pass out tickets for 1 free

book. or BOGO book for ReReads, valid that day only. It was suggested to place signs that clearly state that donations support the Library.

5. **Fundraising (Income Generating Update) - Marilyn Gruebel** - Linda Bryant asked Marilyn Gruebel to discuss the Income Generating plan update. Due to time, Marilyn Gruebel suggested everyone review the draft ahead of the June meeting.
6. **Endowment Committee formation (?) - Ralph Gruebel** - Linda Bryant asked if Ralph Gruebel wanted to discuss the Endowment Committee formation question. He said we're not to a point to set up a committee yet. We need to make decisions as to whether we wish to operate in accordance with the proposed endowment policies. The policy requires some decision-making and he recommended the Board set up for an endowment committee to manage it from within APL. He asked people to look at the highlights and requested people to come up with values to share at the June meeting.
Betsy Helesic moved to put this item up to the top of Ongoing Business for the June meeting, and Don Wetterauer recommended we set aside an entire meeting for this discussion in the future.

H. Next meeting date - Thursday, June 13, 2024

I. Adjournment - Ralph Gruebel moved to adjourn. Maggie Bootman seconded. Passed.

2024 Board of Directors:

Linda Bryant, President (2024)

Isabel Jones, Vice President (2025)

Ralph Gruebel, Treasurer (2026)

Betsy Evans, Secretary (2024)

Mary Bennett (2025)

Judy Bowers (2024)

Marilyn Gruebel (2026)

Maggie Bootman (2026)

Greg Henington, Brewster Co. Representative

Martin Sandate, City of Alpine Representative