

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2025; 4:30 pm

Vice Chair Kristi Beckman called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Austin Public Library.

PRESENT: Kristi Beckman, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Tim Rietz, Valerie Sheedy

ALSO PRESENT: Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff, Jeff Austin

ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

Gema Alvarado-Guerrero, Jwokamer Debock, Nitaya Jandragholica, Stephanie Postma

AGENDA: Ted Hinchcliffe moved to approve the agenda; Val Sheedy seconded. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN SALIE OLSON:

Salie Olson shared her Leadership Austin final presentation, featuring a game-based interactive exercise on community engagement, budgeting and creating a thriving environment for residents. She also provided a summary of the planned programs for Summer Reading, summer reading incentive plan, and an update on registrations so far.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe, seconded by Sue Grove, to approve the May 12, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

A motion was made by Sue Grove to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for May 2025. Val Sheedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

SELCO REPORT: Val Sheedy reported on the most recent meeting of the SELCO Board, which focused on general business.

LIAISON REPORTS: Jeff Austin reported the City Council has begun working on the 2026 proposed budget, which will be seeing a levy increase just to maintain current personnel and operations. He noted the Council considered utilizing a committee structure to do initial analysis work, but instead will hold a series of special work sessions in order to maintain transparency and provide opportunities for public feedback during the budget process.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written report prior to the board meeting, and reviewed the following items:

Staff Development:

Julie noted she had adjusted her schedule structure for 1:1 staff meetings to create more space for consideration after each meeting, rather than grouping the meetings back-to-back. She also advised two of the library pages departed this spring, and a summer shelving page has been hired to fill the gap until fall, when hiring will be reconsidered.

SELCO/Evergreen Migration:

Julie advised of ongoing difficulties with the new ILS software, but noted staff are working through the difficulties and effects on day-to-day work processes.

Events and Programs Updates:

Julie reported on a variety of developments related to the "Milly the Mill Pond Monster" project, including programs and activities created by Tim Ruzek that center on water and environmental topics. She also noted the actual installation is tentatively planned for completion before the start of the school year. Ted asked about plans for marketing items related to Milly and possible cross-promotion with the Hormel Institute for STEAM programs, building on the successful partnership for Science Saturdays this past year.

Julie also advised the Spanish-Language Driver's License class series have been going very well, with three having been completed so far this year. She noted the library is working on ways to continue the program.

Administration

Julie advised the board that work has begun on the library's 2026 budget request, which was one of the topics on the agenda during an administrative department work day last week. She stated the day was productive and included discussion of a range of topics including implementation of the Strategic Priorities and Implementation Plans Tracker, fine-tuning the library's Matrix for staff roles and responsibilities, and plans for continuing staff development.

Facilities

Clinefelter reported on the progress of a number of exterior building projects that are underway, including pouring cement for three areas – 1) a small transition section to eliminate a trip hazard at the workshop garage door entry, 2) bases for the page holders on the Friends of the Library Story Walk around the Mill Pond, and 3) a storage shed being constructed behind the HVAC chiller unit behind the library.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Julie noted the need to schedule a meeting of Finance Committee during the week of July 7 to discuss the 2026 budget proposal. She will coordinate via email with the members of the committee to schedule.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Sue Grove encouraged everyone to visit the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry, which is now open. Sue advised she had visited the site and was very impressed with the tour, and also mentioned the writing workshop for Flash Fiction opens this week and is a part of the activities related to the annual Artworks Festival.

ADJOURNMENT: Ted Hinchcliffe moved to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.; Sue Grove seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, July 14, 2025, 4:30 p.m.