

**AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**  
**October 11, 2022; 4:30 p.m.**

Vice Chairperson Stephanie Postma called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the Austin Public Library.

**PRESENT:** Melissa Bonorden, Kristi Beckman, Jwokamer Debock, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Shannon Lysne, Alex Mayfield, Stephanie Postma

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Baldus, Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff

**AGENDA:**

Sue Grove moved to approve the agenda as presented; Kristi Beckman seconded. Motion carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER:**

Julie Clinefelter introduced Evan Walker, who joined the staff as a Library Assistant on July 25.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Nitaya Jandragholica, seconded by Jwokamer Debock, to approve the August 8, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

**EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for August of 2022. Shannon Lysne seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for September of 2022. Sue Grove seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

**SELCO REPORT:**

Sue Grove reported the SELCO board has returned to in-person meetings and working on the process to restructure the board to decrease the number of members.

**OPERATIONAL REPORT:**

Julie Clinefelter provided a written operational report to the board and presented additional information regarding several of the subjects covered.

Director Clinefelter noted that although the board voted to eliminate outstanding fines incurred prior to 2015 that had been referred to Unique Management Systems for collection in the past, as well as removing those records from the SELCO Horizon database, this did not encompass smaller fines and fees owed by other patrons who were not referred to UMS. She advised she will obtain the total dollars encompassed by the pre-2015 debt and bring that information to the board in November for consideration of eliminating those fines as well to allow completion of the system cleanup.

Julie Clinefelter reported she will attend the upcoming mediation session with the City administration, City Council members, and representatives from the Park and Recreation Board, and Library Board. Melissa Bonorden noted she will be out of town and is unable to attend.

Julie recapped the information regarding the Project 25 construction project bids presented at a special meeting of the board on September 30, with the updated development that the City Council has since agreed to forward \$700,000 to allow the project to move forward. The library will be responsible for repaying up to \$100,000 of the funds when the funds are raised. The board discussed possible sources for additional funding, and Julie reported the Friends of the Library and the Floral Club, and other groups have already expressed a desire to participate in funding of the project.

Stephanie Postma moved to support approval by City Council of the lowest bid presented with consideration of the removal of the book-drop canopy portion of the project, under the funding plan developed by the library and Council. Sue Grove seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Clinefelter reported the library has funding for expanding the hotspot program in 2023 from 100 to 160 devices. She has also been advised Austin Aspires has secured funding for an additional 100 devices, but needs a partner to manage distribution and management of the devices, and is seeking assistance from the

library in this aspect. Julie noted the library will be unable to manage 260 devices with the current staffing level, unless other library programs and services are eliminated.

Sue Grove moved to renew the library's request to City Council for approval of the Technology Coordinator position under the originally proposed funding plan for the position (from 100% funded by the library's existing fund balance in 2023 to shifting the funding source to the City's general budget over the next several years), in order to strengthen the existing hotspot program and contribute to the community consortium and advance progress on achieving long-term digital equity. Shannon Lysne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**LIAISON REPORT FROM JEFF BALDUS:**

Jeff Baldus provided an update from the County Board of Commissioners, advising they are working on the 2023 budget and hoping to keep the tax levy increase as low as possible in the face of rising costs. He noted they are also preparing for the election in November and considering renewal of the Housing Tax Abatement program currently scheduled to sunset at the end of 2022.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Ted Hinchcliffe noted Home Federal's grant program for "People Who Make a Difference" and encouraged board members to consider nominating community members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Kristi Beckman moved to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.; Jwokamer Debock seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristi Beckman, Board Secretary

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, November 14, 2022, 4:30 p.m.**