



**THE LIBRARY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
22, September, 2014**

**The Library Commission convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 22, 2014 at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe St. in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Olga Wise called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Chair Olga Wise, Vice Chair Patricia Dabbert, Commission Members Sharon Kahn, Wendy Price Todd, Michelle Rosenblatt and Lynne Wiggins

**Commission Members Absent:** Commission Member Ben Ornelas

**Staff in Attendance:** Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries; Toni Lambert, Assistant Director of Libraries; John Gillum, Facilities Process Manager and Sharon Herfurth, Library Division Manager

- 1. Citizen Communication:** Carlos León addressed the Commission about the Library's public Internet reservation system and Library holdings for the author Louis L'Amour.
- 2. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2014 Regular Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting of June 23, 2014 were approved on Vice Chair Dabbert's motion, Board Member Wiggins' second on a 5-0 vote  
Those members voting aye were: Chair Wise, Vice Chair Dabbert and Commission Members Kahn, Rosenblatt and Wiggins. Commission Member Price Todd abstained because she was absent from the June 23, 2014 meeting.  
The minutes from the meeting of July 28, 2014 were approved on Vice Chair Dabbert's motion, Board Member Kahn's second on a 6-0 vote. Those members voting aye were: Chair Wise, Vice Chair Dabbert and Commission Members Kahn, Price Todd, Rosenblatt and Wiggins.
- 3. Presentation: Outreach at Austin Public Library**

Office of Programs & Partnerships Manager Herfurth gave an update on Library outreach events during the past year and previewed the Library's new Bibliobike outreach effort.
- 4. Old Business:** None
- 5. New Business**
  - a. Discussion of restoration of Library hours in FY15 and thank you note to City Council members  
Library Director Brenda Branch described the budget process for FY15, specifically the hours packages that were presented to Council. The package proposing consistent hours at all the branches is the one that was passed by Council. Chair Wise presented a draft of

a thank-you letter to the Mayor and Council. Chair Wise will send the Mayor and each Council member a thank you letter.

- b. Discussion of fund-raiser to pay AISD student fines  
Vice Chair Dabbert presented a concern from the Literacy Coalition about AISD students with fines not being able to use the Austin Public Library. Assistant Director of Libraries Toni Lambert reported that over 1.7 million dollars are currently owed on youth cards. Vice Chair Dabbert will take this information back to the Literacy Coalition and find out more details about the students they feel need help paying Library fines.
- c. Discussion of virtual Library cards  
The Library is starting its pilot virtual card project at the four elementary schools that are partners in the Library's Connect 4 Literacy grant: Becker, Blackshear, Dawson, and Graham.
- d. Discussion of United for Libraries membership provided free by Texas State Library  
Library Division Manager Herfurth presented details about the United for Libraries resource and training site sponsored by the American Library Association. An introductory webinar is upcoming October 2, 2014.
- e. Branch Liaison Briefings
  - 1) Chair Olga Wise attended a City Council candidate tea and asked the candidate about the Library. She plans to attend another upcoming candidate event.
  - 2) Commission Member Wiggins attended a Mayoral candidate event to plant seeds and raise consciousness about the Library.
  - 3) Commission member Rosenblatt visited the Cepeda Branch where she visited with the Manager and learned more about programming at the branch and about efforts to attract more users.

**6. Staff Briefings**

- a. Facilities Update: See Director's Report

**7. Announcements:** None

**8. Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Ideas for future discussion are: 1) The Architectural League of New York's *Re-envisioning Branch Libraries* and 2) "What I Wish I'd Known Before I Became a Library Commissioner."
- b. Officer Elections

**Adjourn:** Chair Wise adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. without objection.