

CITY OF FREEPORT
Library Board Meeting Minutes
July 3rd, 2012

The Board of the Freeport Library met on July 3rd, 2012, with the following members present:

Nancy Hughes
Lila Lloyd
Cindy Yell, Branch Manager

James Walker
June Strambler
Catharine Threadgill,
County Librarian

Call to Order

June Strambler called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from the April 3rd, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

Branch Manager's Report

Cindy Yell presented her report. See attachments 1 and 2.

County Librarian's Report

The County is having a book sale. Setup is July 26th, books sold July 27 & 28th – July 30 clean-up. Volunteers are needed.

The County Library Foundation Dinner went really well. Freeport Friends of the Library was the best basket auctioned.

There will be a new branch library on the west side of 288 in Pearland. It will be located either on West 518 or McHard road. It will be a storefront-type in a strip mall.

Gulf Coast Reads – The book for October's Gulf Coast Reads is "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" by Johnathon Safran Foer.

November is Alzheimer Awareness Month. In conjunction with The Gathering Place the library will have books on dementia on display. All branches will have minimal dementia testing during the month of November on how to use both sides of the brain.

United Way 125th Birthday – Volunteers are needed to mentor, tutor and act as readers. Presentations will be given in Spanish. United Way will have a volunteer database. Mentoring may pose a problem due to legal issues of minor/adult restrictions.

Shades of Grey – The series does not meet criteria for public use and will not be available within the library system.

Foundation – Dow give a gift of \$10,000 to Brazoria County Library System for computer replacement. The library system has 250 computers, with 104 over 9 years old. Replacement of computers will be determined by age – the oldest replaced first. No branch has priority. Again, replacement is oldest to youngest.

Old Business

The Board still needs to check on the city council liaison rep.

New Business

In response to Cindy Yell's new Craft Club, Lila Lloyd stated that she could demonstrate on how to make a quilt blanket using old tee-shirts. Cindy and Lila will get together to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted by
June Strambler

Freeport Library Board
Branch Manager's Report
July 3, 2012

Summary of budget requests for 2013

In early May, I submitted a list of requests for the 2012-2013 city budget. In addition to our yearly request for our McNaughton leased book plan, we asked for funds for a variety of building improvements (see attached list).

Friends grant application

In May, The Friends of Freeport Library applied for- and has been awarded- a Dow community grant for \$7,787.55 to fund several projects, including Craft Day with Mrs. Claus. The main goal of the grant is to fund purchase of a mobile laptop lab with a charging cart, which will allow us to hold computer training classes. These laptops will also be used by students and job-seekers for in-house use, and should minimize or eliminate waiting lists for the internet computers. The library will also use the grant to purchase industrial training and safety books for local workers.

Upcoming programs

We are adding a new monthly program for adults: Craft Club! Attendees will bring their crafts-in-progress, and will use our meeting room to craft in good company. Depending on interest, we might focus more on developing sewing skills. Our first meeting is July 13 at 6:00 PM.

So far, 200 children have signed up for Summer Reading Club. We've seen solid attendance at most of our programs, especially for our yearly favorites like Ruby Lewis and her reptiles. We have shown a few movies this summer, which have been very successful. We think the key is to show a movie that is a recent DVD release. The free movie-style popcorn doesn't hurt, either.

Texas Library Association Conference

I attended the Texas Library Association annual conference in Houston April 16-20. During the conference I completed 7 hours of continuing education on the following topics:

- Books in Spanish for young adults.
Publishers of popular books in Spanish talked about their best and most popular titles. This will help us improve our Spanish young adult collection.
- Marketing your library and yourself
-Karen Clark with University of Houston discussed how marketing librarians themselves can be as useful as marketing libraries. We can develop our brand and make ourselves indispensable, and help build the library's brand too.
- Easing staff into new technologies

Bernard Coleman gave a great talk about how to introduce new technology to staff members that are afraid of change. He gave us advice that's very useful at a time when we are introducing staff members to e-book readers.

- Customer service on the front line

Sara Tebes from Irving Public Library discussed training front line staff to provide quality customer service.

- Leading at all levels

Maureen Sullivan, president-elect of the American Library Association, gave a great talk about models of leadership and how anyone can develop leadership skills. She discussed Kouzes and Posner's model of five leadership practices (Challenging the process, inspiring a shared vision, enabling others to act, modeling the way, and encouraging the heart).

Brainfuse demonstration

The Library offers a wide range of online resources for patrons to use at home.

Brainfuse's *Help Now* and *Job Now* are two of our favorites.

Help Now offers live, online tutoring, homework help, and test preparation for students of all ages. Every day from 2 PM- 10 PM, students can log in and chat with a tutor and get help to understand concepts and work out individual math problems. In the Writing Lab, students can also upload an essay and receive comments on it within one business day.

Help Now can also help adult learners! There are GED and citizenship practice tests, resume building tips, and even live help for learning Microsoft Office software.

**Freeport Branch Library
Proposed City Budget for FY 2012-2013**

Board Request McNaughtons, the leased book plan	\$8,640
Electronic door openers To allow users with wheelchairs easier entry into building, also bringing library closer to meeting Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.	\$5000
Computer furniture for public The current computer furniture is old and bulky and built for large computers with CRT monitors, and does not allow 36" clearance between table and book stacks for patrons using wheelchairs (ADA guidelines). The current furniture requires patrons to climb onto high stools to use 4 of the 6 workstations. The new furniture will be standard-height seating to allow ease of use by all patrons. (see page 2)	\$7500
Slatwall for children's area 24"-high slatwall running the length of children's picture book stacks will allow us to merchandize the library's collection while also providing an affordable updated look to the building. (see page 3)	\$3500
Paper towel dispensers for public restrooms Electronic "sensor" eye dispensers will reduce vandalism in public restrooms by controlling amount of paper towels dispensed.	\$200
Etched glass address signage Replace current skewed mailbox signage with glass etching that reads "410 N Brazosport Blvd"	\$150