

Freeport Library Board
Meeting Minutes October 4 2011

The Board of the Freeport Library met on October 4, 2011 with the following persons present:

June Strambler	Margie Edwards
Nancy Hughes	James Walker
Cindy Yell, Branch Manager	Catherine Threadgill, County Librarian

Call to order

June Strambler called the meeting to order 5:15 PM.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved.

Branch Manager's Report

Cindy gave her branch manager's report. See attachment 1

Children's Specialist Report

Rebecca's report was given. See attachment 2

County Librarian's report:

Ms. Threadgill reported that the Brazoria County budget for FY 2011-2012 was passed. It's mostly the same as last year, but with one new employee position for the Pearland Westside substation. The county library budget has to absorb a \$75K loss in state funding.

The Library is starting a new project called "little libraries." They are small bookcases that fit around 20 paperback books. The goal is to reach people who don't visit the library. Patrons can "take a book and leave a book," and Friends groups around the county will be asked to donate 20 paperback books to stock it. The plan is to place the little libraries in county facilities first, then to hospitals and other community centers. The Library will approach local scouting groups and offer the project as an eagle scout opportunity. Local Friends groups will be asked to pay for materials for their construction.

The County Library Foundation's author dinner will be March 29 at the Methodist Church in Angleton. Walt and Isobel Davis, who wrote "Exploring the Edges of Texas" will speak. The Friends will be asked to provide a gift basket for the fundraiser auction.

The County booksale in July raised \$2681, bringing the year's total to \$6400. The money was spent on Summer Reading Club materials.

The Library's Long Range Plan has been approved and is in effect until 2016.

The Library will have a float in the County Fair parade October 15. Commissioner Sebesta has loaned a trailer and truck from his precinct.

The Library will participate in Gulf Coast Reads again next year. This regional event encourages readers across the Gulf Coast to read and discuss the same book. Preparations are already being made for next year. The program will be an annual event for the Houston area.

Margie Edwards asked Mrs. Threadgill what resources and databases were left after losing so much state funding. She replied that the Library still has lots of databases: the Library is just paying more for TexShare databases (up from \$2.5K to \$10k). James Walker and Nancy Hughes asked how to access these resources. Log in to the library's website (<http://bcls.lib.tx.us>), click "homework/research". Log in with your library card number and click on a database.

Margie also asked about memorial and gift books, and if those books would be assigned to other branches by the library's "floating collection" rules. Mrs. Threadgill replied that those books will not float to another branch, and that they will stay at the branch where they were donated.

Old Business

None

New Business

Ms. Yell shared details of the city budget. Funds have been allocated for cleaning the carpet, replacing ceiling tiles, and repainting of some areas.

Mrs. Threadgill stated that the Library will lease Bluebonnet books this year. Branches will purchase one or two copies but will lease the rest according to demand.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55.

Submitted by Cindy Yell

Attachment 1:
Branch Manager's Report

Gulf Coast Reads

We participated in Gulf Coast Reads in September. Twelve women discussed "One Amazing Thing" by Chitra Divakaruni at the book club meeting September 7. The book got positive reviews from the group, and we had a lively discussion. Barbie Rhodes taught a Bollywood dance class September 10, which was attended by five people. Firefighters from Freeport Fire Department brought a fire truck and ambulance to the library September 20 to talk to children about home safety.

Blood Drive

The library hosted a blood drive August 16. The Gulf Coast Blood Regional Blood Center sent a donor coach, and many people signed up to donate. We hope to host a blood drive at the library every quarter.

Craft Night

We are trying a new monthly program for adults. Adult Craft Night will be the third Tuesday of every month.

Early Voting

The library will host early voting for the election this fall. Early voting begins October 24 and ends November 4.

National Gaming Day

On Saturday, November 12, we will participate in National Gaming Day, an American Library Association initiative to bring people together and highlight the social, recreational, and educational value of games of all types. We will work with the Brazoria Gamers club to provide a wide variety of board, card, and video games.

Holiday events

We will be participating in Holiday on the Brazos again this year. Rebecca is already planning the craft we will offer. Holiday on the Brazos will be held Thursday, December 1.

Our annual Craft Day with Mrs. Claus is two days later, on December 3 from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. The Friends group has already begun preparations.

Booth at county fair

The library system will have a booth at the Brazoria County Fair. We will share the booth with other county agencies. Library staff will be at the booth October 20 and 21.

Submitted by Cindy Yell

Attachment 2
Children's Specialist Report

Summer Reading Club 2011 was very successful. We had 300 children and teens sign up, which was an increase from last year's total registration of 243. This year, we added a new incentive for reading 30 books, which involved taking a picture of the child or teen and uploading the picture into a poster format. We printed two posters: one for us to display, and one for the child to take home. The kids and parents loved it! We had 42 participants read 60 books or more and they received reading medals for their achievement. I am very proud of all of our busy readers, and I know they like reading for the fun and enjoyment.

We were also very busy with programs throughout the summer. We had a total of 27 programs with an average of 31 attendees. All of our hired performers did a wonderful job. We had a special treat with paleontologist Dinosaur George visiting, and he was spectacular. The kids absolutely loved him. We also played Minute to Win It with the teens and it was a blast. I will definitely do this program again, as it was very inexpensive and lots of fun. All of the Freeport staff was great in helping prepare for Summer Reading Club and promoting it, and we are looking forward to next year.

Submitted by Rebecca Watts