



**THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
23, January, 2012**

The Library Commission convened in a special called Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012 at the Oak Springs Branch Library at 3101 Oak Springs Dr. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Wendy Price Todd called the Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Wendy Price Todd, Vice Chair Ben Ornelas, Sharon Kahn, Carol Martin, Peggy Pleasant, and Olga Wise

Board Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries; Toni Lambert, Assistant Director of Libraries; John Gillum, Facilities Process Manager

1. Citizen Communication: None

Item 5.a. City Council Resolution #11641: Chair Wendy Price Todd stated that this item would be taken out of order if there were no objections. All commissioners were in favor of this move. Chair Price Todd began the public hearing by asking that those who wished to speak raise their hands to confirm the number of people who would need time to speak. Forty citizens signed in at the meeting and ten indicated a wish to speak, with general agreement that each person would speak for no more than two minutes. Those speaking in favor of the resolution were Gus Garcia (former City of Austin Mayor); Frank Cooksey (former City of Austin Mayor); Judge Richard Scott (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, retired); Betty Washington (AISD school librarian, retired); Marcella Simms (Commercial Accounts Manager, Austin American Statesman); Freddie Dixon (Director of Community Outreach, UT Austin Office of VP for Diversity and Community Engagement); Larry Jackson (Founder/Director of Austin Eastside Story Foundation); Nelson Linder (President, Austin Area NAACP); Joseph Parker (Pastor, David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church); Jimmie Jones (musician/educator/nephew of Willie Mae Kirk) and Sandra Kirk (City of Austin Planning Commissioner/daughter of Willie Mae Kirk). Chair Wendy Price Todd shared a letter of support that had been received by Library Administration earlier that day from Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement, The University of Texas. Brenda Branch also shared a message of support for naming the branch for Willie Mae Kirk that she received from Carolyn Goldston on behalf of the Urban League.

Motion by Vice Chair Ornelas and Commission Member Pleasant's second: I wholeheartedly move that the Oak Springs Branch Library be renamed the Willie Mae Kirk Branch of the Austin Public Library. The motion passed on a 6-0-0 vote.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2011 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commission Member Martin and second by Commission Member Ornelas passed on a 4-2-0 vote

Those members voting aye were: Chair Price Todd, Vice Chair Ornelas, and Commission Members Martin and Wise.

Those members who abstained were: Commission Members Pleasant and Kahn, who were not present at the meeting on November 28, 2011.

3. Presentations: Tobacco-Free Worksite

Philip Huang, Medical Director, Austin/Travis Health and Human Services Department and Linda Terry, Planner II

Following the presentation, Dr. Huang answered questions from the Commission Members.

4. Introduction of New Commission Member: Sharon Kahn

Commission Member Kahn briefly reviewed her educational and professional background and was welcomed by the Commission Members.

5. New Business

- a. **City Council Resolution #11641:** rename the Oak Springs Branch to the **Willie Mae Kirk** Branch of the Austin Public Library

- b. Annual Internal Review

Chair Price Todd stated that she received a request from the City asking for a response to several questions as an internal review. She previously emailed this to Toni Grasso to be sent to all Commission Members and will resend it. This will be an agenda item at the next Commission meeting as a response is due in March.

- c. Branch Liaison Briefings

Commission Member Wise reported that she had visited the Pleasant Hill Branch, the Windsor Park Branch, the North Village Branch, and the Southeast Community Branch Library. She shared her impressions of each library and noted that there are no guidelines for how often a liaison should visit a branch or what their role should be. This was discussed as a possible future agenda item.

Commission Member Kahn selected the Old Quarry Branch, the Yarbrough Branch, and Recycled Reads as the locations for which she will serve as Branch Liaison.

Commission Member Pleasant and Vice Chair Ornelas expressed their preference for flexibility in the role of Branch Liaison.

Commission Member Pleasant stated that she recently met with Council Member Riley to give him a brief report. She offered to share that report with other Commission Members. Chair Price Todd suggested that it can be helpful to bring another Commission Member along to such meetings.

- d. Staff Briefings

- 1) Brenda Branch introduced Nancy Gemmel, the managing librarian of the Oak Springs Branch Library.

- 2) Brenda Branch reviewed the process to be followed in selecting employees for each category in the Employee Appreciation notebooks, reminding Commission Members that only the written information about each nominee should be considered. At the request of Chair Price Todd, Brenda Branch listed the other ways staff are recognized for their achievements and explained that the Library surveys staff annually to confirm how they wish to be recognized.

- 3) Facilities Update: see Director's Report
- 4) Toni Lambert announced that the Branch Services Division is moving several branch managers effective February 26th. Irma Flores-Manges will move from Oak Hill to Cepeda, Frank Schmitzer will move from University Hills to Oak Hill, Pat Campbell will move from Old Quarry to Yarborough, Diane Palan will move from Yarborough to Old Quarry, and Steve Raab, the Librarian III at Yarborough, will be the acting branch manager at University Hills.

6. Future Agenda Items

- e. Annual Internal Review
- f. What other libraries are doing about library fines; possible no fine policy.
- g. Staff presentation

Adjourn: Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m. without objection.