

**Lawton Public Library
Advisory Board
Library Meeting Room
February 1, 2023 @ 4:00 pm
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Consider Approval of Minutes (vote)
3. Presentation from the Deputy Library Director, Kathy Hines, regarding the Adult Online High School Diploma Program (informative)
4. Customer Comments & Correspondence (informative)
5. Financials (informative)
6. Library Director Report (informative)
7. Friends of the Library Report (informative)
8. Family History/SWOGS Report (informative)
9. City Council Report (informative)
10. Unfinished Business:
 - Ceiling Study (informative)
11. New Business:
 - Six Month Stats (informative)
 - Open Letter Regarding LATS Transfer Station (discussion)
 - Vagrancy Issues (discussion)
 - Notable Black Educators brochure (informative)
12. Comments from the Floor (informative)
13. Adjournment (no vote)

Next meeting: March 1, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Director Report

January 2023

Certification

Jessica Weatherby has earned the Consumer Health Information Specialization (CHIS) through the Medical Library Association. Congrats Jessica!

Kudos

From Kathy: A lady this morning commented that we have really nice restrooms. She further stated that our bathrooms are cleaner than the Lawton Mall and much nicer!

From Julia: This afternoon I had a wonderful conversation on the phone with Lorna Libert. She had so much praise to give to our staff and our library. For starters, she was very grateful for our literacy section and for the phonics books that we offer. She said her child has shown such tremendous growth in their reading abilities since using these materials. Secondly, she teaches her children from home and is very grateful for the StoryWalk. She is enjoying how there are three stories that her children can read while they exercise through the park. She also said many of her friends who also homeschool their children have been so ecstatic about this being offered. Finally, she wanted to let us know that she appreciates us. She said the Lawton Public Library is awesome and that she wants us to continue doing the awesome work that we do. Great job, everyone!

Notary Service

We now have 3 new notaries in the library:
Beth Knighton, Jessica Weatherby, and Tina King.

Personnel Changes

There were no personnel changes this month!

Tai Chi

The library received a health literacy grant which allowed us to partner with the Patterson Center to hold Tai Chi classes.

Lawton Public Library, Municipal City of Lawton
January 11 at 9:30 AM · 🌐

We're very glad to offer Tai Chi again this year thanks to a Health Literacy grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Institute of Museum & Library Services!

To register for upcoming classes, call 405-271-2290 or email tarin-clark@ouhsc.edu

YOU CAN COUNT ON US
TAI CHI CLASSES RETURN TO LAWTON
PATTERSON CENTER

Crude Oil 75.73 1.96

KSWO.COM

Patterson Center holding weekly Tai Chi classes in partnership with the Lawton Public Library

Lawton Public Library Board Meeting

Wednesday January 4, 2023

The Lawton Public Library Board met at 4:00 pm in Meeting Room 1 at the Lawton Public Library.

Notice of the meeting and agenda was posted in accordance with Oklahoma law.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Patty Neuwirth, Chair.

Roll Call: Patty Neuwirth, Chair; Sue Kremmer, Vice Chair (Absent); Frantzie Couch, Member; Ellouise Love, Member; Fermin Viruet, Member (Arrived at 4:02 pm); Jenny Breeden, Friends Representative; Kristin Herr, Library Director; Kathy Hines, Deputy Library Director; Megan Stockton, Administrative Assistant; Randy Warren, City Council Liaison; Dwayne Burk, Deputy City Manager (Absent); Megan Loftis, City of Lawton Legal Assistant

A motion was made to approve the Library Board minutes for the November 2, 2022 meeting as presented. (Couch/Love)

Megan Loftis, of the City of Lawton Legal Department, gave a presentation about open meeting laws. Megan gave information about the various rules surrounding notices, agendas, and meetings.

One customer comment was presented to the Board. A customer left a negative Google review stating that the Library is too loud.

The Financial Report was given. Kristin informed the Board that the budget year is around half way over. Kristin notified the Board that utility prices had gone up. Kristin also announced that the Library would soon be receiving its State Aid money.

The Library Director's Report was given. Kristin informed the Board that the Library had been very busy since the last Board meeting with various holiday crafts and events. Kristin reported about a Library customer's 3D printed Ghostbuster backpack created using Library resources. Kristin informed the Board about the new ramp that had been poured on the north side of the Library. Kristin apprised the Board about her plans to replace carpeting in the Library.

The Friends of the Library Report was given. Jenny stated that the recent program on insurance went well. Jenny also reminded everyone that there was a Friends meeting at the end of the month. Kristin notified the Board that the Friends should be receiving a large technology grant soon.

There was nothing to report for SWOGS/Family History.

There was nothing to report for City Council.

Unfinished Business:

- Kristin stated that the ceiling study would be brought before City Council soon.

New Business:

- Kristin informed the Board of the Library's local history initiatives. Specifically, Kristin spoke about the possibility to digitize books about local history in order to make them more available.
- A new strategic plan was presented to the Board.
 - The Board voted unanimously to approve the new plan. (Couch/Viruet)
- The last six months of incident reported was presented to the Board.
- Kristin informed the Board about the upcoming How-To Fest at the Farmers' Market on February 5th.

There were no comments from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm. /Megan Stockton, Administrative Assistant III

KMcConnellLawton-Constitution.com The City of Lawton officials agreed Tuesday to move the mass transit transfer center to the 400 block of Southwest B Avenue, and to continue with plans to sell 2.88 acres of surplus city land - land Wal-Mart wants for its new supercenter.

Standing-room only The decisions by the City Council and City Transit Trust were made before a standing-room-only crowd whose members, at one point, stood two rows deep along the back wall and sides of the council chambers. The transfer center - where passengers will transfer from one bus to another - will be built on the north side of the 400 block of Southwest B, where angled parking now serves city hall, the Armed Forces YMCA, Carnegie Library Town Hall and First Baptist Church. City Manager Bill Baker said the city will counter the loss of parking on Southwest B by asking the Traffic Commission to designate all Southwest 5th Street parking slots as angled parking, a change that will add more parking spaces than will be removed with the Southwest B site. That site replaces the city staff's long favored site, the south side of the 300 block of Southwest C. That location, which could be converted with minimal changes at an estimated cost of \$10,000, would have eliminated 26 parking spaces. Several business and property owners along Southwest C objected. Southwest B site The Southwest B site would allow six buses to park at one time in space now used for angled parking. City staff members said buses will be at the location only during the hours the transit system is operating. Transit trust members did not discuss costs Tuesday, but city staff report estimated a conversion cost of \$35,000 to \$42,000. The majority - \$20,000 to \$25,000 - involves preparing the site with sidewalks, shelters, handicapped accessible ramps and other improvements. Signs and striping were estimated at \$2,000; installing additional driveways (to access the parking lot behind City Hall) would cost \$13,000 to \$15,000. Contracting the work would mean a project time of 120 days; staff members doing the work in-house "would be dependent upon scheduling priorities," according to the staff report. McDonald Transit Associates, the system operator, has said the site must be ready by March 1, so bus drivers can incorporate it into their training schedules. The system is slated to go into operation in April. Some objections There were some objections to the site, including concerns the center would interfere with elderly residents who use Carnegie Library Town Hall for meetings and activities. Baker said there wouldn't be any disruptions to those activities. Eddie Owen, a deacon at First Baptist Church, objected to the transit center's proximity to a church. Owen, noting he was speaking only for himself, urged council members to "look to God" when making the decision. Ward 5 Councilman Bob Shanklin said Southwest B Avenue is a temporary site, but no one could tell him how long "temporary" would be. Late last year, transit trust members directed staff to continue negotiating with Warmack and Company, owners of Central Mall, to use its parking lot for a permanent site. In other business, the council listened as residents argued for and against plans to build a Wal-Mart supercenter at Northwest 67th Street and Quanah Parker Trailway. City to sell surplus land In the end, the council voted 7-1 - Ward 8 Councilman Michael Baxter voted no - to refuse to overturn its earlier decision on 2.88 acres of surplus land, meaning the city will seek sealed bids on the property. However, council members also voted to set a minimum bid of \$200,000 for the site; city staff had been prepared to recommend \$145,000 to \$147,000. Wal-Mart officials confirmed Tuesday what residents have said for months: the retailer will build a second supercenter. Tim Baker, Wal-Mart real estate director for Oklahoma and North Texas, said the retailer would build the store at Northwest 67th and Quanah Parker Trailway even without the city property. Losing the 2.88 acres would mean a scaled-down store garden center and auto center, he said. Ward 4 Councilman John Purcell said that pledge to build, regardless of city land acquisition, prompted his yes vote because the city of Lawton should "reap the benefits" of selling the land. Ward 6 Councilwoman Barbara Moeller, who represents west Lawton (along with Baxter), said the Wal-Mart corporation also had indicated a willingness to help solve area traffic problems. Several residents cited traffic flow problems as a major flaw of the new store. \$3.5 million in taxes Wal-Mart officials outlined the benefits of their proposal, ranging from new jobs to increased sales from a retailer that put \$3.5 million in sales taxes into the economy in 2001. Many residents remained firm in their opposition. Cindy Sheppard told council members Northwest 67th Street can't handle any more traffic. She also argued that a smaller Wal-Mart would be better for other local businesses, and losing those businesses would have a bigger financial impact on Lawton than Wal-Mart's new money. Brad Dobberstein, owner of Country Mart, asked council members how much business Wal-Mart needs, and how much new revenue the firm will really bring into the community. Dobberstein, long an opponent of the Wal-Mart proposal, was accompanied by a number of Country Mart employees. However, not everyone opposed the plan; Moeller noted that 60 percent of her telephone calls favored the proposal. Ken Isaac, a business

owner, urged the council to take a common sense approach to the issue. He also argued that existing businesses can compete successfully with Wal-Mart, if they know their customers. Dave Davis, another supporter, said the city should be in favor of new business. "I believe we should be pro-business," he said, noting that all Wal-Mart was asking was a chance to bid on the property.

Copyright 2002 by The Lawton Constitution, All rights Reserved. City Manager Bill Baker steps off the first mass transit bus Tuesday, as he, city staff members and Chamber of Commerce Red Coats look over the first of 14 buses delivered for Lawton Area Transit System. The LATS fleet is scheduled to be in place by March 1, and city officials are predicting a spring start-up.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

Bus transfer site selected Wal-Mart to build new super store in west Lawton. (2002, January 9). *Lawton Constitution, The (OK)*, p. 1A. Available from NewsBank: America's News: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1266690AA2032358>.

Copyright, 2002, The Lawton Constitution, All Rights Reserved.



Lawton Public Library

lawtonok.gov/departments/library

January 19, 2023

Open Letter Regarding the Bus Transfer Station

I would like to share some information from the library perspective in reference to the LATS bus transfer station.

Proximity of Transfer Station

The transfer station has been “temporarily” next to the library since April 2002. Bus riders currently have easy access to the library and bus ridership has contributed to the library’s door count.

We estimate that 90% of LATS riders and drivers utilize the library lobby monthly. We have restrooms and vending machines.

We estimate that at least 30% of LATS riders utilize library services monthly. The library sells approximately 80 bus passes each month. We also provide photocopying, printing, fax services, internet access, digitization, reference resources, notary signing, and of course books to checkout.

The Transfer Location Matters

When you ride the bus and get off at a stop, you have to wait for the next bus before you can get back on. If the bus only comes by that route once an hour, that means you have to wait an hour to catch the next bus. If you rely on public transportation, making the most of each stop matters. If you don’t have a car and if you can get a task done during the 10 to 20-minute wait at the transfer station, you have just made your day a little easier.

Biggest Ridership

We know that the largest ridership is our school kids. The library wants our school kids to have easy access to our public library.

Basic Amenities

A transfer station does not need a large building to be effective but it needs restrooms and a waiting room. The library has been providing restroom facilities to LATS riders and drivers for years. We would want LATS to have their own restrooms.

During the last cold snap when weather got dangerously cold, there were five people waiting in the library lobby for a bus when we closed for the night. We had to send them out into the elements. The bus-stop shelter on B Avenue was not adequate.

Greyhound’s Impact

Since Greyhound started picking up and dropping off in Lawton in September 2022, the library has had a significant uptick in questions from people seeking help to get tickets to get on the bus, more people needing directions once they get off the bus, and more people waiting for the bus or rides after they get to town. The library is happy to help with directions, resources, etc. The library does not want to be a waiting room. A joint transfer station would solve this.



Lawton Public Library

lawtonok.gov/departments/library

A Shared Transfer Station

We know that public transportation works best when there is a shared transfer station. We help individuals connect from LATS to Greyhound and vice versa. We are noticing more soldiers using LATS and Greyhound to get where they need to go. If the transfer station is too far away from the library, we won't be nearly as helpful.

Additional Amenities

With more out-of-towners coming and going on Greyhound buses, lockers would be a most valuable amenity. I have used public lockers on my travels. They can be set up to unlock each evening so people don't use them as storage units. It makes it easier for travelers to shop and eat downtown while they are waiting for the bus.

A helpful amenity for any thriving downtown is public restrooms. If a transfer center was built downtown, could those restrooms be accessible for other public gatherings around the Shepler Park area?

Toilet Access

While the library and LATS have overlapping hours, there are 17 hours each week when LATS riders don't have access to the library's facilities.

The Status Quo

The status quo puts a strain on library restrooms and seating.

Our Request

The library wants to see the transfer station continue to be close to the library so we can help people AND we want to see a LATS building with toilets and an adequate waiting area.

Sincerely,

Kristin Herr, Library Director

Lawton Public Library
110 SW 4th Street
Lawton, OK 73501
lawtonok.gov/departments/library
Kristin.Herr@lawtonok.gov
580.581.3450 ext. 1710

Attachment: Bus transfer site selected Wal-Mart to build new super store in west Lawton. (2002, January 9). *Lawton Constitution, The (OK)*, p. 1A.

Circ Stats

Circulation of All Physical Materials	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Main - Adult Material	155,140	114,963	110,002	74,642	59,864
Main - Juv Material	28,507	71,983	73,033	57,606	39,432
Main Library Total	183,647	186,946	183,035	132,248	99,296
Branch - Adult Material	9,285	7,254	7,326	5,325	5,200
Branch - Juv Material	1,251	3,334	3,333	2,940	2,486
Branch Library Total	10,536	10,588	10,659	8,265	7,686
Total	194,183	197,534	193,694	140,513	106,982

Jul 2021 - Dec 2021	Jan 2022- Jun 2022	FY22
36,432	43,134	79,566
29,793	42,074	71,867
66,225	85,208	151,433
3,174	4,405	7,579
2,172	2,549	4,721
5,346	6,954	12,300
71,571	92,162	163,733

Jul 2022 - Dec 2022	Jan 2023- Jun 2023	FY23
43,517		
39,713		
83,230		
4,497		
2,613		
7,110		
90,340		

In FY21, statistics rules were changed so YA material is now included in adult numbers.

Database Stats for Annual Report

Circulation of All Electronic Materials	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Hoopla ebooks	n/a	n/a	26	1,340	2,382
Hoopla eaudio	n/a	n/a	24	1,445	2,547
Hoopla evideo	n/a	n/a	14	637	669
Hoopla Bingeass	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overdrive ebooks	23,055	26,632	30,249	29,923	30,834
Overdrive eaudio	6,412	8,798	11,222	14,056	14,032
Overdrive evideo	117	127	113	65	36
Overdrive emagazines	424	0	0	411	1,242
Total	31,438	36,085	44,411	49,858	51,742
Sucessful Retrieval of Information	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Ancestry	17,969	13,821	7,020	7,598	5,519
Brainfuse HelpNow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brainfuse JobNow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brainfuse VetNow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Chiltons</i>	351	91	266	62	30
Creativebug	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
EBSCO	10,984	6,748	8,666	5,810	2,175
Fold3	4,182	4,510	2,135	2,461	578
<i>Heritage</i>	3,876	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Legal Forms</i>	498	621	469	454	90
Mometrix	0	0	0	0	18
NewsBank	7,500	7,028	15,732	7,896	3,572
Transparent	133	173	47	158	81
Total	45,781	33,113	34,426	24,539	12,064

Jul 2021 - Dec 2021	Jan 2022- Jun 2022	FY22
1,523	1,824	3,347
2,159	2,602	4,761
323	380	703
1	19	20
14,909	14,711	29,620
7,727	8,376	16,103
5	8	13
734	731	1,465
27,381	28,651	56,032
Jul 2021 - Dec 2021	Jan 2022 - Jun 2022	FY22
4,334	1,995	6,329
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	102	102
2,869	868	3,737
480	361	841
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
14	41	55
1,594	1,558	3,152
48	146	194
9,339	5,071	14,410

Jul 2022 - Dec 2022	Jan 2023- Jun 2023	FY23
1,793		
2,868		
503		
30		
13,924		
9,376		
2		
331		
28,827		
Jul 2022 - Dec 2022	Jan 2023- Jun 2023	FY23
1,734		
660		
92		
20		
n/a		
610		
1,383		
613		
n/a		
n/a		
39		
895		
104		
6,150		

Ancestry changed its seach algorithm in 2017 and in 2020. / Britannica is no longer provided by the State Library.
Some rows are hidden to facilitate printing. Totals include databases no longer provided.