

## City of Farmers Branch Library Advisory Board Presentation April 2018

### Library Script DRAFT

#### *Introduction*

Thank you so much for inviting us to talk with you tonight and provide an update on the amazing happenings of the Farmers Branch Library Advisory Board. As Chair, I have had the privilege of watching this board grow and evolve over the past several years. Tonight, several of our library board members are here. I'd like to ask them to stand and be recognized. I'd also like to ask any of the fabulous Library staff to also stand and be recognized. Thank you!

#### *Mission and Goals*

Currently, the Library's mission statement is to **“provide the community with an inviting center for learning, culture, recreation and information in all its forms.”** We are in the process of reviewing existing policies to help us create a new Vision and Mission statement that more accurately reflect the direction and purpose of our Library.

**Some examples to be considered and discussed at upcoming board meetings are:**

MISSION: To provide outstanding access to Information Resources, Technology, Programs, and Innovative Spaces for a diverse community of learners.

VISION: Manske Library: Your Premier Destination for Learning, Growing, and Doing.

VISION: Manske Library: Connecting a Thriving Community to an Innovative Space for Reading, Learning, and Creating.

We never forget our commitment to our municipal and community stakeholders, in essence our primary audience. At the Library, we embody the City's (10) ten guiding principles with an emphasis on **“Exceptional customer service sets us apart as a community of choice.”** In order to keep the Library at the forefront as a valued City asset, we ask the City to consider everything we have accomplished and to please consider supporting our recommendations for improvement.

The Manske Library provides information in all formats for all residents of the City. Funds for the Library are used to: 1) encourage the use of Library materials for informational, educational, and technological needs; 2) to serve as the City's cultural center; 3) to provide maximum use of the facility and its services; and 4) to promote literacy which we believe is the Library's core function.

#### *Update on Big Things*

The Manske Library has celebrated many accomplishments recently, so we would like to take a moment to update the Council.

First, we have a strong, involved and cohesive board that is willing and excited to get things done to improve the Library. At a recent meeting, the board brainstormed in a focus session to find both the goals of the Library and how to achieve them. Most importantly, we collectively discovered that the Library represents **FREE ACCESS** to information, a space of **EQUALITY**, and a communal sense of **OWNERSHIP** to residents who use the facility. These points are paramount

to the Library's success, and remain the guiding ideology for the board as we move forward in achieving our goals.

In addition, many Library staff and board members recently attended the Texas Library Association's annual conference in Dallas. Some highlights included: repurposing of spaces, future of libraries, story time collaborations, marketing/promotions, and best practices in libraries,

We are also excited about a new initiative: "Manske Sprouts – Seed Lending Library" which was introduced to the public, effective April 1, 2018, in collaboration with our city's parks and gardening staff. Library users can obtain seeds for planting, and return seeds from harvest (as able) to replenish the "Seed Library." The launch and maintenance of the Seed Library has already been a huge success, and supports sustainability and beautification of a "City in a Park."

Library staff also enthusiastically submitted an NEA (National Endowments for the Arts) Big Reads Grant requesting \$15,000 to support programming, literacy, and outreach efforts. Live notification of the grant recipients is June 1, 2018 and we have great confidence we will be one of the recipients! In addition, we are collaborating with Brookhaven College's Early College High School on a FAFSA grant application that will be submitted soon.

Over the last two years, your Library board has focused outreach efforts into: The Farmers Branch Market, City Town Hall Meetings, Boards and Commissions events, PTA Nights and Programs at local Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Collaborations with Brookhaven College, and most recently Renewed-Marketing-Efforts in creating a new "FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY." We are hoping Council (and anyone here listening tonight!) can encourage citizens to get involved in creating, overseeing, and participating in a new Friends Group!

### ***Identify future big things***

The Library has big plans for the future, and needs the support and help of the City Council to realize those plans. We want to take a moment to "tour" the Library Facility now and show you what needs our attention so the Library can continue to be an innovative community space of the City.

### ***SHOW THE VIDEO HERE (4 minutes 10 seconds)***

#### ***Guiding Principle – Culture & Recreation***

*Provide community center spaces in which the public can gather for collaboration, cultural development and individual improvement.*

1. Meeting rooms (including the kitchen)
2. Amphitheater update – multipurpose things for space
3. Art Gallery plans (commons area/coffee bar)
4. Mezzanine issue – structure or level to bottom
5. ADA compliancy
6. Enclosing youth area (glass)

#### ***Guiding Principle – Infrastructure & Assets***

*Functional, sustainable and well-maintained infrastructure, facilities and equipment are essential elements allowing the City to achieve its potential.*

*Plan and prepare for the future infrastructure, facilities and equipment needs of the City.*  
*Maintain and improve the current infrastructure, facilities and equipment assets of the City.*

1. Water Leak
2. HVAC/roof
3. Parking
4. Lighting updates
5. Raise ceilings
6. Furnishings (modular, charging station, patio furnishing)
7. Carpet
8. Shelving update
9. Convert balconies - enclose
10. Façade remodeling
11. Staffing upgrades – kitchen, cubbies
12. Commons area
13. Paint

*Guiding Principle – **Phenomenal Service***

*Phenomenal customer service sets us apart as a community of choice.*

*Employ innovative programs, updated technologies and objective analytics to optimize efficiencies and enhance services.*

1. Relocate circulation desk
2. Digital signage
3. Mobile maker spaces
4. Computer labs
5. Renovate bathrooms by children's area
6. Sound proof study spaces (paint or glass rooms)
7. Cell phone zone(s)
8. More computers and laptops available for patron use

***Our Recommended “Key-Take-Aways” for Council***

The board is actively involved in finding ideas to create awareness for **creation of a ‘Friends of the Library.’**

The library building needs improvement in furnishings, repurposing and/or remodeling.

The Library board is committed to reviewing policies for familiarity and recommended changes this year; especially with several new members recently appointed.

The Board has come together to formulate a **“2021 Vision for the Farmers Branch Manske Library.”** Despite what many are hearing about the Death of Print Books OR the Lack of Interest in Libraries, there are actually more public Libraries in the U.S. than there are Starbucks. More than just storage spaces for books anymore, Libraries are important community hubs that serve as institutions for **Learning, Professional Development, and Healthcare.** In today's political climate, Libraries have become centers for movements that support women, immigrants, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and those facing religious persecution. They are free public

spaces that allow everyone to feel safe and to find opportunity. Now, more than ever, Libraries are vital American institutions. From national newspapers to local community members, Libraries are the lifeblood of their cities.

Although there is research from various sources that speak to the relevance of Libraries, perhaps an excerpt from a letter our Library received in February 2017 speaks to our real importance in the Farmers Branch community: *“In the summer of 2008, I moved from Cedar Hill... following [personal loss] including the loss of my job. Until I could move, I stayed in my apartment and read books, as many as I could: some were fun, others about healing. Your books helped me survive. Books matter. I’ll always be grateful to this library for the place it had in my healing. I now live in Houston, have an amazing life and a great job. May your work continue, and change the people, and the world!”*

***Direction Needed from Council***

How can we best proceed in advising improved use-of-Library?

How can we promote the Library throughout the city more effectively?

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