

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV – unable to attend

Lori Alvord, District V

Leann Chaney, District IV

Virginia Hamilton, District V

Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV

Kelly Kervin, District V

Paul Kolarik, District V - Absent

Laura Petruska, District IV - Chair

Raymond Spencer, District III - Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendi Jo Bost, Library Services Director

Jane Thorn, Public

Karen DiNatale, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by the Chair, Ms. Petruska. Introductions were made as two new members, Virginia Hamilton and Kelly Kervin, have joined the Board.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Chaney, seconded by Dr. Kenyon to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023 Board Meeting. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Library Services Director's Report

We had a wonderful summer reading program this year. The numbers were up and we had prizes donated by the Cocoa and Eau Gallie Rotary. We had prizes of bicycles, Amazon Fires and more. We did learn that next year we will let the prize recipients know they have won something so that they will attend the Summer Reading Closing event. We only had one at the event. Staff did take pictures of the prize recipients as they came to their libraries afterwards to pick up their prizes. We also had the Mobile Library do events this summer. One of the events was an escape room which very popular. There were over 700 programs for children and adults this summer.

I hosted another Meet and Greet for new employees. We do it through Teams and it is great hearing their thoughts and ideas. It gives them a chance to know me and ask questions.

We are working with Tech Logic to tag our collections, and we are also getting new gates. Titusville Library will be done Monday evening. It took about three weeks. We picked Titusville to start as this is a larger library. This will allow for collection security and there will be an addition of an App that will let individuals check out materials from their phones.

We are working on many facility projects; unfortunately, the three carpeting projects might not be completed this year. There have been some unforeseen problems with getting the carpets installed.

All library locations now have the Code of Conduct hung up so if there is an issue we can show patrons the Code of Conduct to help alleviate some code violations. We are getting extra security at Central Library next year and also looking to do the same at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. We also have a Youth poster indicating an adult must be with a child to remain in that area of the library.

We began the project for the Fire Suppression system at Central Library, and redoing the lights and ceiling tiles in meeting room one as well.

Suntree/Viera Library construction is finished.

Melbourne Library restroom renovation is underway.

We have a Lean Six Sigma Project that is working on expediting new materials into the catalog. We're working on how can we get the processed materials we receive from the vendor out in a day.

I Graduated from Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) on July 7, 2023. It was an 18-month program and was a great experience. I was able to make connections with County employees I would normally not have met.

We're looking to partner with Habitat for Humanity to see if we can participate when a new homeowner receives their keys. We would like to bring the Mobile Library, present the new homeowners with Library Cards, educate them on things we're doing at the library and to welcome them as part of our community. They are currently building 13 – 14 houses and feel this would be a good outreach.

For safety reasons, we are currently doing Library Walk-Throughs with the Police Department. We are looking into camera systems that could be considered at all locations. We have also asked for police to help us evaluate the back land at the Suntree/Viera Library.

Library Con will be held October 1, 2023 at Viera Park. This is our annual event that is well received by the community.

This Saturday, August 19, 2023, Franklin DeGroot Library will have the grand opening of the new Franklin DeGroot Business Center. This business center is made possible by a grant we received from NEFLIN (North East Florida Library Network). Staff have already started a

business card exchange and the boxes are already full. There is a lot of promise there and it is a great resource for those who are wanting to start a business.

Personal Appearances

Dr. Kenyon stated she visited Melbourne, West Melbourne, and Mims/Scottsmoor Library. Dr. Kenyon is always interested in what patrons have to say about the library. She had begun talking to people in line and getting a conversation going as to what their opinions were of the library and why they visit. It has been consistently positive.

Ms. Kervin stated she attends Franklin DeGroot Library. She deals with parents through the school who have concerns with school libraries. There seems to be an uptick in parents wanting to get their children library cards. There has always been positive feedback regarding the public library.

Ms. Petruska stated she knows Viera is pushing for their own library. She continued by saying why would you want to start with a small library that will take 20 years to build up to be a good library, when you can add on to the Suntree/Viera Library. The Suntree/Viera Library has the property to expand and it would result in one fabulous library.

Ms. Alvord stated she visited Suntree/Viera and Satellite Beach Library. There are a lot of events going on at Satellite Beach. They have a great staff and has heard of a lot of positive comments when she visits.

Virginia Hamilton hasn't had the time to visit the libraries yet, but was surprised at how full the Eau Gallie Library parking lot was. Right now, she's more involved in the school libraries helping teachers vet the books and keeping in touch with school librarians.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Bost mentioned in their packet is a copy of the Municode. In Section 2-216 it explains County Staff Time and Expenditures. If you have any questions on this, please call me anytime.

Ms. Bost stated she brought this up because there were motions made last time that were contrary to what the board is allowed to do.

Ms. Petruska asked how are we to fill out this annual report if they can only meet four times a year. Ms. Bost stated the Annual Report should include feedback of your experience and then what you're wanting to see the library accomplish.

Ms. Kenyon provided information for Annual Report. Ms. Bost requested the Annual Report forms to be completed by August 31, 2023. Ms. Bost stated it doesn't need to be a long, just short responses such as getting this Board set up. Ms. Kenyon asked if moving forward it would be helpful to include accomplishments, recommendations, goals. Ms. Petruska stated it could also be a line item on the Agenda – goals accomplished.

New Business

Ms. Petruska stated before Covid 19 hit Brevard County we had several book clubs. One such book club was “Strategy and Policy”. It was extremely successful in getting men involved in a book club that they would normally not have been interested in. When Covid struck and the library book clubs virtually stopped. They kept this book club going by having it through Zoom. Interest has picked up and besides Brevard County the book club is now engaged people from other states – word has gotten around. The point is it is a very popular book club but because it is now being held through Zoom the Brevard County Library System decided that it is no longer meeting the criteria of a Brevard Library County Book Club. They stopped pulling the books or ordering the books as Suntree/Viera Library said that it was no longer a book club. They have continued the book club through Zoom with continued success. Our members consist of invalids, nursing home residents that cannot drive, mothers with young children who cannot get babysitting, etc. Book clubs are for everyone. I’m requesting that Brevard Library System consider “Zoom” book clubs.

Ms. Bost stated the library supports many different types of clubs. The issue with Zoom, is there is no control over their format. Recently there was meeting from the State Library on the Zoom platform, for youth services librarians, and they were “Zoom Bombed”. What that means is we were hacked and there was unscrupulous activity that was shown at that meeting. There could be other platforms we could discover. Not using Zoom platform is a County decision. Acceptable platforms such as Microsoft Teams. Ms. Kervin said this is a state-wide issue with Zoom.

Ms. Alvord stated she would like to rotate meeting locations. Ms. Bost said the way it is written it is relegated to this building. That only a request to the County Manager could change a meeting location if necessary.

Comments by Public/Friends

None.

Comments by County Library Board Members

It was brought up as to what can the Board do for Library Con. Ms. Bost stated any help with Marketing would be great such as handing out flyers and getting the word out. Dr. Kenyon stated the best thing as a Board Member to do is go to library events and welcoming patrons.

Ms. Alvord stated that on Tuesday, Satellite Beach Friends of Library had a meeting. Marlena Harold, Director of Satellite Beach Library, requested funds for refreshments for LibraryCon, Game Night material, and she also asked for new carts for the Reference area. Ms. Alvord felt that new carts shouldn’t come out of the Friends budget. Ms. Bost stated we would buy the new carts out of our Library Budget as needed.

Dr. Kenyon asked if there was a list of meeting dates for next fiscal year. Conversation ensued and the next meeting is already on the calendar for October 19, 2023 at 1:00 pm. At that meeting, the remaining meetings for the new fiscal year will be scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm by Ms. Petruska.