

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV
Lori Alvord, District V – Unable to Attend
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
Barbara McKinney, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm, by the Chair, Ms. Petruska. Introductions were made as two new members, Virginia Hamilton and Kelly Kervin, had joined the Board at the last meeting and Barbara McKinney was not present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Kervin, seconded by Dr. Kenyon to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 Board Meeting. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Library Services Director's Report

We had Library Con on October 1st, 2023. It was a great way to start the new fiscal year with over 1600 people in attendance on a stormy day. It appears we have outgrown the Viera Regional Parks location and will be seeking another venue for the next year. Several Library Friends groups donated to purchase shirts for the staff.

Our budget passed since we last met.

We have a lot of projects starting soon. To start, the Palm Bay library will be closed beginning October 23, 2023, for new flooring. We had begun to restore the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central library after a flood.

The libraries have been showing strong use via circulation of books and eBooks and door count.

We are working on a project to tag our collections. Via an App, patrons will be able to check out materials, check their accounts, pay fines, and search the collection. The Circulation desk will still be available for those who want personal customer service.

The social media pages have begun to really take off. The Library webpage is the 2nd most viewed webpage on the County website.

A Lean Six Sigma group composed of Librarians, the County Extension Office, Leaders from the County, and Tourism personnel have been working on how to expedite the movement of media faster. A tracking process had been implemented to allow to work with vendors as well.

On August 19, the Franklin DeGroodt Business Center opened. This addition was made possible by a grant from NEFLIN. We have seen it being used regularly and there is interest in other small business owners meeting each other.

Library Services had begun writing a new grant to get sets of drones and an obstacle course for indoor use to teach coding. We are seeking advice from Mosquito Control, who use drones regularly to get to areas otherwise inaccessible areas. The idea is to introduce children and adults to drones and drone use.

We are working to get two website pages up; one for the Mobile Library to show where the Mobile Library will be during the month and another for the Creative Lab so people will be aware of what's available. This will help give the library system an idea of what needs to be duplicated in other areas.

Personal Appearances

None.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Bost looked into using ZOOM for book clubs but it is not a good option. Other vendors are being investigated.

Ms. Petruska asked about speaking about libraries to the public. Ms. Bost explained that we would love the board to promote the library but not speak to policies that are specific as there can be unique situations. Ms Bost stated if a board member hears complaints or concerns from patrons she would like for the board member to encourage the patron to speak to staff or call Ms. Bost directly, her door is always open. 321-633-1801 The board should always share the concerns, but we want to make sure information is accurately conveyed to patrons.

New Business

Ms. Petruska asked for clarification on some of the Apps the library uses such as Beanstack, a program that allows you to track what you have read, and Hoopla, Hoopla is a program where patrons can check out movies, TV shows, eBooks, music, comics and audiobooks. All titles are free and can be streamed immediately and everywhere you have a screen, all you need is a library card.

Ms. Petruska also requested an explanation of the policy for young people under 18 who wish to check out non-fiction books in the adult section. Ms. Bost explained that the parameters for items a child may check out are monitored by the parents unless they are emancipated, are married, or have a child. A parent can choose to limit access to DVDs and Internet usage. Everyone can check out any non-fiction items from the library. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Petruska asked how many people we need to form a quorum for a meeting and could that number be adjusted? Ms. Bost said it was not possible to lower the quorum as defined. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Petruska asked for nominations for new board officers. Dr. Kenyon nominated Ms. Allgood for President. Ms. Petruska nominated Ms. Alvord for president. Show of hands for Ms. Allgood for president was 5 to one. ***Motion carried.***

Ms. Chaney nominated Ms. Kervin for vice-president. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Ms. Bost reminded the board members that the President can set the agenda but if they would like to make a change to the agenda they should send the request to the president of the board but you cannot discuss it further due to Sunshine Law restrictions.

Meeting dates for the next year were discussed. Motion to approve meeting dates on January 18, 2024, April 18, 2024, August 15, 2024 and October 17, 2024. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Comments by Public/Friends

None.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Ms. Kervin wanted to compliment the libraries for having the eclipse glasses available for free so people could safely watch the recent and upcoming eclipses.

Ms. Petruska stated that she has contacts at NASA and asked if the board would like her to see if the NASA walk-through trailer would be available for a future Library-Con. The response was yes.

Dr. Rochelle mentioned the Assistive Technology Fair will be at Central Library on October 25th.

Ms. Chaney attended Library Con with her non-profit group, the Americans Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She tallied speaking to over 200 people. She felt it was a great event.

Ms. Chaney finds it difficult to find library events since the Facebook pages are no longer run by individual libraries. She asked if there was a way to create more events on Facebook for tracking, a discussion ensued. Ms. Bost said she would look into alternatives.

Ms. Petruska reminded everyone that several book sales are upcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm by Ms. Petruska.