

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV - Chair
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
Raymond Spencer, District III - Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Griselda Clarke, Library Services Assistant Director
Barbara McKinney, Administrative Assistant
Nathan Allgood, library patron

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by the Chair, Ms. Allgood. Introductions were made as no one had met Ms. Clarke before.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Kenyon, seconded by Ms. Kervin to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 Board Meeting. *Motion unanimously carried.*

Library Services Director's Report

Since we last met we have been working on the new tagging project. Ten locations have been tagged in preparation for the new system. Cape Canaveral Library is the first to get the new security gates to assure the new tagging system works. Library staff at the circulation desks will remain the same. Discussion ensued.

Our Lean Six Sigma committee is continuing to update our catalog and on how to expedite processed materials to our patrons.

Over the winter school break, six of the libraries hosted “Foam Snow” parties thanks to a local business woman who attended the kickoff for Franklin DeGroot libraries new business center. The parties were full of activities and faux snow. They were a big hit with between 75 and 275 people in attendance.

A new Collection Development Librarian for the Youth Services departments had been chosen. Dana Loving came from the Satellite Beach Library with experience working for University of Florida as well as with the Orange County and New York Public Library systems.

A generous bequest from a South Mainland patron was being used, in partnership with Health Firsts' Memory Disorder Clinic Program Manager, Sandy Stauffer, to develop memory kits to bring resources to those struggling with memory loss and for their caregivers. Discussion ensued.

We continue to work on projects to move our technology forward using an email communication system, Patron Point, to engage with patrons after they apply for a library card. In addition to the "Welcome to the Library" and "Happy Birthday" emails we are looking at including quarterly e-newsletters.

The Library Administration team visited all of the libraries during the holiday season to bring holiday cheer in the form of chocolates and to see the display of the Gingerbread house in each library built by staff.

Several staff have completed their master's in Library Science recently. They were invited to attend The Library Corporation University (TLCU) for three days of education from our Integrated Library System (ILS) vendor, the management system that runs our online catalog and patron accounts, to learn about system enhancements and things other libraries are doing. It was recently discovered that Volusia County will be using TLC soon and Ms. Bost has reached out to the Volusia County Library Director and Head of IT to develop a relationship and offer support.

There are many major Capital Improvement projects, (projects costing over \$35,000), slated for this fiscal year. Key library locations being worked on are Cocoa, DeGroot, Cape Canaveral, Melbourne and Cocoa Beach with large projects such as roofing, bathroom renovations and stucco repair. Melbourne Beach library will be getting new flooring and a new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system. At Palm Bay library the carpeting had been redone and at Melbourne library the bathrooms have been updated, and 1990's wall paper and sound baffles on the walls that have been removed. Ms. Bost had met with the County Grant writer to explore opportunities to write a grant from the state for construction. This would allow for additional revenue for the capital improvement projects.

Library Administration had held many meetings via Teams with new staff. They are seeing an amazing number of applications for new staffing; between 9 and 50 applicants for each open position. There had also been many Teams meetings with the Youth Services staff. In January 2024, a Reference meeting was held at the Suntree/Viera Library that lasted over two hours. It was inspiring to hear the staff share their thoughts, ideas and interests.

Brevard County Libraries will be featured at the Early Learning Literacy Coalition's launching of their new Book Nook on January 23, 2024 at their offices on West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne,

FL. The mobile library will be at the grand opening. The Mobile Library will also be at Heroes Fest Family Fun Day at Space Coast Harley providing fun and information about resources to attended in support of our Veterans.

The libraries are excited to be working to bring LinkedIn Learning to our patrons. This resource, formally known as Lynda.com, brings exciting learning and training opportunities to our patrons of all ages, including the ability to achieve certifications as well as explore their hobbies and interests. There are over 25,000 different courses on various things.

Personal Appearances

Ms. Chaney visited the Eau Gallie library to use a study room. She enjoyed the view, admired the new flooring, over all cleanliness, and friendly staff. She asks about the empty area in the Cocoa library since only empty shelves. Discussion ensued. Ms. Chaney was still having problems finding events on the library website. Ms. Clarke showed her where to look and informed everyone that it is something the system is trying to improve to make finding events easier and more user friendly.

Ms. Allgood admired the Spanish section at the front of the Suntree/Viera Library and asked if having a Spanish section was standard in every library. Ms. Clarke spoke about the inclusion of some foreign materials in all libraries. Discussion ensued. Are the Great Courses on Libby? Discussion ensued.

Dr. Kenyon had been to many of the libraries and says everyone is always so nice. She had been to the Technology event at the Central Library a couple of months ago. Ms. Clarke informed them that the Talking Books section at the Central Library would be having a “Line Dancing for Seniors” program the next day. She would like to see if volunteers from one of the advisory boards would volunteer to attend events to show a supporting presence by the board. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Kervin attended the West Melbourne Library “Snow Day”. Her kids said they had a blast. People at DeGroot Library are super friendly.

Unfinished Business

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a grant from North East Florida Information Network Innovation Project for funding for 2 sets of drones. One is for coding where kids and teens will learn to navigate various obstacle courses and the other will be equipped with goggles for an immersive experience into where the drone is flying. We had worked with Mosquito Control who has been using drones to fly into areas to monitor mosquito beds and see what is happening. These drones will be for indoor use only. Each branch will be able to request these drones to offer programs for the patrons. Discussion ensued.

New Business

Ms. Allgood asked about the 2023 Annual File Report the board members submitted last year. Discussion ensued. A copy will be emailed to the board members.

Ms. Petruska requested a separate heading be added to the meeting minutes titled Accomplishments by the Board.

Accomplishments by the Board

The By-Laws had been revised to reflect four members from each of District 3, District 4 and District 5 will be appointed to the board for a total of 12 members. The appointment for one member from District 1 had been removed. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Ms. Kervin, seconded by Ms. Chaney to accept the new by-law changes. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Old Business

Ms. Petruska commented on the issues of the libraries using Zoom for book club meetings and Ms. Bost was looking into an alternative. This issue is tabled until the next meeting on April 18.2024.

Ms. Petruska asks about the rules governing board members who have not attended at least half of the meetings. Discussion ensued. The board members request that Ms. Bost look into how to fill the open board positions and for dismissing the two members who have not showed up in over a year.

Comments by Public/Friends

In response to the conversation about getting more board members to apply for open positions Ms. Allgood suggested a flyer be printed with a QR code that would open to the Brevard County Board Application Form.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Ms. Petruska suggested selling the uncleared property behind Suntree/Viera Library and using the money to add more meeting rooms to the library. She also remarked again about the wait time to get a book from Libby. Ms. Clarke explained some of the issues like expense and the refusal of some publishers to allow us to have only a limited amount of any one title at a time. Discussion ensued. Ms. Petruska also informed the board that we have fake Facebook pages. Ms. Petruska had an issue with checking out a book when she owed \$.10. She was told at the library that there must have been a glitch in the system since it is designed to allow up to \$9.99 in fines before denying access to new materials.

Ms. Petruska introduced the idea that the board invite teachers to attend the board meetings. Discussion ensued. The question was asked if the library system could get statistics on how many children versus adults of different ages or by gender to determine where to focus their attention to be best able to serve patrons.

Ms. Petruska would like the library system to look at extending renewal times in Libby for books over 500 pages.

Ms. Hamilton would like to see an extended program of having dogs in the libraries besides the Read to a Dog program. Discussion ensued.

Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm by Ms. Allgood.