

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV – Chair
Donna Richardson – District III
Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV
Leann Chaney, District IV
Kelly Kervin, District V
Lori Alvord, District V

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Raymond Spencer, District III – Absent
Paul Kolarik, District V – Absent
Virginia Hamilton, District V-Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendi Bost, Library Services Director
Barbara McKinney, Administrative Assistant
Jane Thorn, Visitor

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by the Chair, Ms. Allgood.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Alvord, seconded by Ms. Chaney to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024 Board Meeting. ***The motion unanimously carried.***

Library Services Director's Report

Ms. Bost informed the Board that Satellite Beach Library had been closed for 3 weeks for carpeting, flooring and rearranging of the stacks to allow more visibility. The Board members who had visited the library all approved of the change. Melbourne Library will need to be closed for 1 week to clean out the ductwork. Roof work and bathroom renovations will be scheduled for Franklin T. DeGroot Library; Palm Bay Library will get new bathroom tile; Martin Luther King Library will get an exterior paint job; Melbourne Beach Library needs a new chiller and has an erosion problem and Melbourne Library's windows need replacing. These are huge projects and will be done in installments.

Two hurricanes, Helene and Milton, caused the library staff to be called for shelter duty. One-third of the shelter staff is made up of library staff. Ms. Bost worked at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during those occasions.

The new app, BCL-Go, launched on September 17, 2024. The app had been downloaded 2,457 times with over 2,083 checkouts, 3,220 renewals and over 4,000 renewal requests denied due to exceeding renewal requests or the item was on hold for another patron.

The River House, situated on the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library in Cocoa, had been going through renovations thanks to the River House Grant – Making a House a Home - and with some help from the County Manager, Frank Abbate and Career Source. Small programs that serve the community like silent book club or therapy dog programs, among others, will be taking place here. There are two rooms dedicated to the sensory program the libraries have implemented. A State Grant for Construction has been written for Brevard County Libraries so we will be on the list when money becomes available. We are also applying for State Aid.

Last year six locations had done snow or foam parties. We will be doing more snow or foam parties during this year's winter break.

The libraries introduced a new program, Read Your Way to K Playdate, to encourage babies and toddlers to read One thousand stories before they begin kindergarten. Books read are tracked on the Beanstack app. A sticker is given for every one hundred books read.

The libraries received a grant from the Florida Humanities Council the Young Storytellers Program this summer. Over 70 applications were received but only 36 positions were available. The stories written have been made into a book, Anthology of Adventure, by Young Storytellers of Brevard and is available for check out. The libraries are looking to have a program at Library Con about writing.

The Youth Services Halloween parade at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library will be on October 29th. This year they will parade through the Library Administration offices.

The next summer reading program in 2025 will have the theme Color Our World.

Ukuleles are being offered for check-out by the libraries. They join the Memory Kits already available in the Library of Things. Blood pressure cuffs are being donated by Health First and will become available in the near future.

United Way is gearing up for the County. Ms. Griselda Clark and others, will be heading up the campaign this year to raise funds for this cause. This campaign will last through February 2025.

In conjunction with the Brevard County Emergency Management team, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), assistance will be available for 2-3 weeks at Melbourne, Franklin T. DeGroot, and Titusville Libraries.

Ms. Bost wrote a letter of support for Codecraft Works, the company who hosted our cyber security programming for kids. Codecraft Works partnered well with the libraries. All of their students got library cards, learned how to get government resources, create resumes and other useful things that empowers students to take charge of their future.

Ms. Bost recorded radio spots for WFIT about the new app, BCLS-Go and programming done at libraries.

The Libraries have been attending the Job Fairs at the County Buildings. The libraries experience a large turn over due to all the part-time jobs.

The Libraries budget was passed for the 2024-2025 Fiscal year.

The Libraries have joined partnerships with Health Group United, (HUG), for HIV and Hepatitis C treatment and prevention at Franklin T. DeGrootd and Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Libraries, and Circles of Care at Eau Gallie Library for medical assisted treatment (MAT) for voluntary drug evaluation.

Ms. Morgan Roth started working as the Library Operations Specialist. She is a Lean Six Sigma green belt, she will be in working on our social media, and evaluating some of the libraries processes for improvements.

The final statistics for 2023-2024 shows the patron door count is up by 3%, program attendance is up by 11% and circulation is up by 1%

Personal Appearances

Advisory Board members visited the following libraries: Melbourne Beach, Eau Gallie, Franklin T. DeGrootd, and Suntree/Viera.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Alvord expressed concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Library Services Department and the Friends of the Library groups. The Satellite Beach Friends group does not feel it provides enough guidance for what the groups can spend money on. Ms. Bost will work with the groups to provide better understanding and examples of items that could be purchased.

Ms. Chaney asked if there was a possible change in the check-out times for the Libby app. Ms. Bost will look at increasing the check out time to three weeks but it may increase wait time for holds.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Bost opened the Libraries website on a screen and navigated through the many options available for patrons.

New Business

None.

Accomplishments by the Board

Meeting dates for Fiscal year 2024-2025 have been selected. Next year the meetings will be January 16th, April 17th, August 21st, and October 16th. The meetings will be held at the Government Center in the Atlantic Room at 1:00 PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Chaney, seconded by Ms. Allgood, to approve the dates for the next Fiscal year. *The motion unanimously carried.*

New Officers were selected: Ms. Allgood was nominated as Chairperson, and Ms. Chaney was nominated as Vice-Chair. Ms. McKinney will remain as secretary for the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Chaney, seconded by Ms. Kervin, to approve the election of officers for the next Fiscal year. ***The motion unanimously carried.***

Old Business

Ms. Chaney asked if the missing members who had not been to meetings would be removed from the Board. Ms. Bost will follow up with the County on the removal of board members, updating the expired members reappointments of service and appointment of others to fill vacancies.

Comments by Public/Friends

None.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Ms. Kervin was interested in the Author Talk at Franklin T. DeGroodt Library and would like a list of the authors who will speak. Ms. Bost will get a list and send it to the Board members.

Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm by Ms. Allgood.