

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV – Chair
Donna Richardson – District III
Leann Chaney, District IV
Jane Thorn, District IV
Kelly Kervin, District V
Lori Alvord, District V

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV
Virginia Hamilton, District V-Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendi 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. Allgood.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Thorn, seconded by Ms. Alvord to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2024 Board Meeting. ***The motion unanimously carried.***

Library Services Director's Report

Ms. Bost informed the Board that the Cape Canaveral Trunk or Treat Haunted Library had over 800 visitors.

During Halloween, the children who attended the Library Halloween party were paraded through the Library Administration department. One hallway was fun and the other was a little bit scarier. Over 126 people attended this program. Everyone had fun.

The Book Cart Drill Team attended the Cocoa/Rockledge Christmas Parade and took 2nd place. We also walked in the Merritt Island Christmas Parade and placed 2nd.

Ms. Debra Martin held a line-dancing program for the visually impaired at the Cocoa library in December.

The Libraries held the 2nd Gingerbread contest among the staff. This year's theme was a Christmas song. The winner was the Franklin T. DeGroodt library with their rendition of Mele Kalikimaka, That's How to Say Merry Christmas in Hawaiian. Mims/Scottsmoor library was second with their rendition of Rocking Around the Christmas Tree.

After a few additional corrections, the Satellite Beach Library flooring was completed. The staff had many positive things to say about the new shelving arrangement. Lowered shelving is a goal to encourage more visibility in the book shelves.

Ms. Bost spent some time working with the County on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for elevator services.

Ms. Bost also worked on procuring a fourth grant for the renovations on the Riverhouse. The soft opening had 35 patrons in attendance. The first official program at Riverhouse was Sensory Playtime with over 70 patrons in attendance.

Library Services Administration worked on procuring State Aid money for libraries. This is a big project.

Ms. Bost, as well as 8 staff, attended, online, The Library Corporation University (TLCU) over two and a half days to talk about the integrated library system and things it does like cataloging, acquisitions, and all kinds of different modules. She attended the Senior Summit afterwards. She would like to see TLC move to be more web based. TLC is considering hosting another event to include more senior people like the Los Angeles Public Library Director, the Assistant Library Director and other senior people to talk about the vision of libraries so everyone is on the same page. She hopes to work with vendors to help them see what we want to do to help our community.

Ms. Bost has been busy filming the new welcome video for those who get a new library card. Over 47,000 new library cards were issued last year.

County Commissioner, Mr. Curt Smith, told Ms. Bost that when he was going door to door while campaigning for County Commissioner, he knocked on 7500 doors and discovered that the people really like libraries.

Carpeting at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library has been put on hold temporarily. It will be the last library re-carpeted.

Security cameras are being evaluated and we are looking at adding a system for Titusville, Eau Gallie, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood, Melbourne and DeGroot. Ms. Bost would like to see a uniform camera system in all of the libraries for security reasons.

The Assistant Director, Ms. Griselda Clarke is heading up the United Way campaign this year. The goal is to beat the amount received last year.

The new Library of Things is doing well. The Ukulele's are very popular. The newest addition is the blood pressure kits and will be called Libraries with Heart. Two new memory kits will be coming soon, the Veterans Kit and Household Items.

Ms. Clarke has been attending the 922 meeting's where non-profits come together to share ideas to serve the community.

Thanks to a new opioid grant, Circles of Care has been dispatching a mobile unit to the DeGroot and Eau Gallie libraries with specialists, nurses, and security officers to assist those in crisis who are seeking help. A second vehicle is on hand to escort those in serious condition to Circles of Care.

The gazebo at Port St. John Library is in dangerous condition and will be torn down. Hopefully next year sun shades will be installed to provide shade.

Library Con 2025 will be on February 23, 2025. Due to having become so popular that the program had outgrown the previous venues it will be held at the Melbourne Auditorium this year.

Orange County approached Ms. Bost about a grant they have been working on with the National Institute of Health (NIH) and University of Florida (UCF) for children with communication challenges. They will train our staff and give us all of the materials and resources to implement some programming into our facilities; this is a great match for Riverhouse. Orange County has had great success with the program and would like to add more locations.

There have been some staff changes as people retire.

We held 5 Foam parties and 2 Snow parties at different libraries over the Christmas break. Satellite Beach Library had 240 patron participants. The final statistics for 2023-2024 shows the patron door count is up by 3%, program attendance is up by 38% and circulation is up by 1%.

Personal Appearances

Advisory Board members visited the following libraries: Franklin T. DeGroodt, West Melbourne, Riverhouse, and Suntree/Viera.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Alvord is still trying to work through some issues with the Satellite Beach Friends group about donations, responsibilities, and the all-year media sales.

Ms. Kervin asked about check out times on the Libby reading app. Ms. Bost found that the check-out times could not be changed for longer books.

New Business

None.

Accomplishments by the Board

None.

Old Business

Due to a lack of attendance, Mr. Raymond Spenser and Mr. Paul Kolarik, have been removed from the Board.

Comments by Public/Friends

Ms. Chaney said that the Riverhouse looks great.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Ms. Thorn said others have raised the concern that the complete collection of an author who has a main character in a series and the entire series does not exist somewhere in the system. When you have a series is there a program that identifies when a series is incomplete? Ms. Bost explained that often a title is so old that when a copy needs to be replaced it is out of print and has to be removed from the collection.

Ms. Allgood asked if she wanted to request a book what should she do? Ms. Bost instructed her to speak with a reference librarian.

Ms. Kervin asked if every library gets a copy of new books. Ms. Bost explained that it depends on the size of the library and the demographics of the local community that determines what books go to which library.

Ms. Alvord says she noticed Rosetta Stone only teaches the basics of a language. Could someone look into making higher levels available?

Ms. Chaney asked if another library will be opening a business center like the one at Franklin DeGroodt? Ms. Bost said not at this time. We do have staff tracking usage.

Ms. Kervin expressed some concerns about a book in one of the libraries that was in the children's section that claimed it was for children over 14 years of age. Ms. Bost said she will look into the issue.

Ms. Kervin announced that the Mobile Library will be at Sabal Elementary in March for their Literacy Week on Family Engagement Night.

Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm by Ms. Allgood.