

SOUTH/CENTRAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Allgood, District IV – Chair
Donna Richardson – District III
Leann Chaney, District IV
Jane Thorn, District IV
Lori Alvord, District V
Virginia Hamilton, District V-Absent

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV
Kelly Kervin, District V

OTHERS PRESENT

Griselda Clarke, Assistant Library Services Director
Barbara McKinney, Administrative Assistant
Karly Cooke - Small Business Administration – Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience – Visitor

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. Alvord seconded by Ms. Hamilton to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting. ***The motion unanimously carried.***

Library Services Director's Report

Ms. Bost sent her apologies for missing the meeting.

Library Con was a hit! It was amazing, bigger than last year with over 2000 people in attendance. The survey revealed everyone loved it and they want more, more, more!

Library Administration had been busy putting together the 2025-2026 budget. Ms. Bost and Ms. Blair, Library Finance and Facilities Manager, had meetings with all locations and departments to finalize the budget.

The Summer Reading Program theme this year is Summer on the Space Coast. All things will be space related. The kick-off party will be on May 31, 2025 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library in Cocoa. Lots of activities are planned, brag tags are being brought back, and the free avatars will be Space Cadets. The libraries are partnering with Space Coast Area Transit to provide the Read to Ride program for free bus rides to anyone 18 years of age and under showing a Brevard County Library card. The End of Summer Party will be at the Titusville Public Library on July 26, 2025.

The Library Department received a grant from the Eau Gallie Rotary Club for \$2500 that will provide for our end-of-summer prize winners and very cool telescope kits.

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 applied for and was granted the River House – Innovation Grant – Making a House a Home. This grant will provide resources for programming and hanging art at the River House. Many articles have been published about River House. Programming is picking up and people are attending.

Over the Winter Break, we hosted Foam parties at six locations; Titusville, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, Martin Luther King Jr, Suntree/Viera, Satellite Beach and Palm Bay Libraries. The kids love foam parties, everyone had a great time and all were well attended.

The Read Your Way to K programs are going well. All library locations are hosting this program. We are excited to continue to help the youth of Brevard County get ready for kindergarten.

In 2024 we received a grant for \$3000 from the Florida Humanities Council for our Young Storytellers project and we received it again for 2025! We will host 2 groups: our returning writers and a new series of writer using last year's curriculum. We had last summer's Young Storytellers participate in at Library Con in February as a panel answering questions about writing. They engaged in thoughtful answers to questions posed about the process of writing over the summer.

The Library of Things is going well. We have Ukuleles, blood pressure cuffs, and memory kits available for check to patrons.

The adult and juvenile restrooms at Cape Canaveral had been completed and they look great.

Plans are in process to get the restrooms and roofing completed at Franklin T. DeGroodt soon as well as the restrooms at the Titusville Library.

The cabbage palms in the parking lot at Titusville Library have been removed, improving the landscape and visibility.

We have met with the engineers regarding a new camera system and the drawings are 60% complete.

We are working to comply with a county requirement for multifactor authentication to help increase security levels. Staff will be provided with a special fob to allow them to enter a password to log into various county programs.

Personal Appearances

Advisory Board members visited the following libraries: Eau Gallie, West Melbourne, 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

Ms. Hamilton reminded the board Rosetta Stone only teaches the basics of a language and Ms. Bost said she would look into it. Ms. Clarke will remind Ms. Bost about this request for the next board meeting.

Did anything happen about Read to a Dog program in the libraries? Ms. Clarke explained that some libraries host this program but it is up to the individual library if they chose to have this program or not.

Comments by Public/Friends

Ms. Cooke, Public Affairs Specialist from the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, U. S. Small Business Administration spoke to the board about disaster loans, economic loans for survivors, businesses and people.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Ms. Allgood asked how the libraries will be affected by federal funding. Ms. Griselda spoke about how most of the libraries' funding comes from property taxes but we are not currently being affected by changes in federal funding.

Ms. Chaney asked, will be a Viera West library in the future? Ms. Clarke said there are no plans at this time for another library. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Thorne asked where does the Mobile Library go? Ms. Clarke said anywhere and at any event they are requested to attend, depending on weather, staffing and prior commitments. Discussion ensued.

Both Ms. Allgood and Ms. Chaney attended Library Con. Both remarked about how many people attended the program.

Ms. Chaney wanted to know if there was a timeline for County Commissioners to appoint more board members? Ms. Clarke said it is at the commissioner's discretion when they appoint more board members.

Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 pm by Ms. Allgood.