

BREVARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pete Poole, District I (Absent)
Tom McGill, District II
Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV
Mark Broms, District V

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeri Prieth, Interim Library Services Director
Irma Fordham, Director of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
Mark Rimkus, IT
Jeff Thompson
Karen DiNatale, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm, by the Chair, Mr. Broms. This was an in-person meeting at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library and a virtual meeting utilizing GoToMeeting forum.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. McGill, seconded by Dr. Kenyon to approve the minutes as corrected of the September 16, 2020 Board Meeting. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Library Services Director's Report

Ms. Prieth reported a resolution was made at the Brevard County Board meeting by Commissioner John Tobia for Jeff Thompson and his years of service to Brevard County library. Mr. Thompson was also honored by the Board at Merritt Island library.

Marian Griffin, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library Director and Area Director, will be retiring February 1, 2021. Janice Murray, Merritt Island Library Director, will take over as the Interim Area Director. Elanya Bairefoot, Lead Librarian at Palm Bay Library, will be the Interim Director at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library.

Mary (Lena) Penna, Port St. John Library Director, has been selected to participate in the County's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) this year.

We were asked by Public Safety if we could assist with phone lines for the vaccination appointments. We have been working with them and have sent two employees to Department of Health to assist in that capacity.

We had a Director's meeting last week and we have what is called system-wide duties. This is all part of the succession planning where the librarians go through the ranks and learn what is done at each level. We also

have an employee who is joining our mentoring program. We have more and more employees that want to move up at Library Services.

Mr. Broms thanked Ms. Prieth for the report and asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. McGill asked what has been the most challenging as Interim Library Services Director. Ms. Prieth responded by saying the workload as she is doing more things now at the Government Center.

Personal Appearances

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Broms stated we would normally be at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library for our meeting and we would get to hear from the director what is going on at that library. Virtually, Irma Fordham gave the report for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. A lot of improvements have been made to the building. The roof was replaced, the interior and exterior of the library were painted, all the exterior lights of the library were replaced with LED lights, which makes it a lot brighter than it used to be. The public restrooms were remodeled and they look great. We have partnered with Keep Brevard Beautiful and the Florida Native Plant Society to re-landscape the entrance to the building with low maintenance native plants and that also looks nice. Ms. Fordham invited the Board to come and visit and see the renovations that have been made. This year we're looking to replace the flooring and that would complete most of the major projects for this library. This library has been at this location since 1998, so in November of 2018 we partnered with Friends of the Library to celebrate 20 years with a fun-filled event for the community. During COVID-19 we continued to offer services to the public from curbside pickup, answering questions over the phone, providing take home crafts which we continue to do. Ms. Fordham concluded stating that the staff is healthy and fine. Mr. Broms asked if the children have been using the facility during school or after school? Curious as to what the attendance has been. Ms. Fordham responded by saying there has been a drop-in attendance, but hopefully that will soon change. Dr. Kenyon asked if the same is true for adults. Ms. Fordham responded with attendance is down, but adults have been coming in to use the computers and faxing service. Mr. Broms stated he would come by the library for a visit.

Next on Agenda is the approval of LS-01, Monthly Report of Library Activities. Ms. Prieth stated you will notice the form is shortened. We are getting most of our statistical data from reports from IT. Mr. Broms asked if this was discussed with the directors and are they in agreement. Ms. Prieth responded by saying they were in agreement at the last director's meeting. A motion to approve was given by Dr. Kenyon and seconded by Mr. McGill. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Mr. Broms stated the final business was to elect officers for 2021. Mr. McGill stated we didn't have many meetings last year due to COVID-19 so he felt it would be wise for the officers to remain in office for this year. Dr. Kenyon agreed with Mr. McGill and made a motion to continue with our current officers through the end of 2021. Mr. McGill seconded that motion. ***Motion unanimously carried***

Comments by Public/Friends

Mr. Thompson stated he was glad to participate in the meeting and said if there is anything that was needed he was there to help.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Mr. McGill would like an open action item to celebrate Jeff Thompson for his service with the library when it is safe to meet Mr. Broms agreed and would like, in the COVID-free future, to invite Jeff Thompson to come to a meeting, so that the Board could give him a proper farewell.

Next meeting will be February 17, 2021 as a GoToMeeting meeting (virtual) and also in-person at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Kenyon and seconded by Mr. Broms.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Edwin (Pete) Poole, Secretary

Approved by the Library Advisory Board on March 17, 2021.