

NORTH BREVARD PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 8, 2024

Members Present

Constantine Daniel, District 1 – Chair

Suzanne Noel-Copeland

Pete Poole, District 1

Nancy Praver

Ashley Scott

Janis Shellabarger

Loretta Wilson

Others Present

Wendi Jo Bost, Library Services Director

Shelley Macon, Director Port St. John Library

Phyllis Stover, Administrative Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Constantine.

Approval of Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Poole to approve the minutes for the April board meeting was seconded by Ms. Shellabarger. ***Motion unanimously carried to approve minutes as written.***

Correspondence

None.

Library Services Director's Report

For the benefit of new members, Ms. Bost opened the meeting by introducing herself and Mr. Daniel, Chair, and allowed the board to make brief introductions about themselves. Ashley Scott, the board's newest member, introduced herself.

Ms. Bost introduced Shelley Macon, the new director at the Port St. John Public Library. Ms. Macon comes to us with a wide array of experience from working at several libraries in the department. She is glad to be back at Port St. John Library serving the community where she lives and works.

County IT has created a new online calendar which is much easier to navigate and provides more information.

Early voting starts this weekend [August 10] at the Titusville Library. There was a great piece in the newspaper which shows photos of stalls and equipment being carried in by Mr. Bobanic's team for set-up. We operate in conjunction with them [the elections office]; it gets busy and creates challenges. Ms. Andrea McAvoy and staff has stepped up to handle things while the library director is out on medical leave. If anyone has the opportunity to visit there during early voting, we would appreciate feedback.

A patron, working with the Mims Library staff, has started teaching basic Spanish through story and storytelling. Her first class had about thirty people in attendance. She was vetted via our Volunteer Process including fingerprinting.

There have been some issues with people sleeping on the Titusville Library property after hours. Law enforcement has cleared out some encampments in the woods close by. In relation to that, we are working on identifying a new camera security system to replace the old cameras throughout the library department. The County Manager is very supportive of providing more funding.

BCL-Go, our new app, will officially launch September 17 with a soft launch in the Google and Apple store on September 28. The app hosts a multitude of functions such as, checking your account, finding a library and its hours, check out and renewal of items, alerts, etc. You can even check out a book when you are in the stacks and not set off the alarm when you leave.

Our new checkout system will go live on September 17. There were minimal issues from beginning to end, with the project being completed within a year. Shout out to Tina Hare and the IT team for their phenomenal work.

Summer Reading: We had an incredible summer reading program. Over 1,200 people attended the Cocoa kickoff which was up from 800 last year. The end of summer party in Satellite Beach had about 400 people all having a great time. The County Manager and his granddaughter were amongst the many happy people having so much fun.

We had over one million reading minutes from June 1 through July 30 on Beanstack, which is our reading tracker. That is a significant increase from the one million reading minutes for all of last year.

Thanks to our partnership with Space Coast Area Transit, a bus was wrapped in the "Ride to Read" program and will continue circulating for a year. Digital billboards promoting the summer reading program were donated to us.

Astro ducks, similar to Flat Stanley, were a big hit and went all over the place, even Europe. Daniel Hearn, the Reference Librarian at Port St. John, was the artist behind the creation behind Astro Duck.

We received a \$2,500 grant from the Eau Gallie Rotary club for summer reading prizes. Prizes were awarded at the Eau Gallie Library on August 3.

The Florida Humanities Council awarded us a grant for our Young Storytellers summer writing project. The kids met with staff and authors to learn about the writing process. Over seventy kids applied which means that kids want to write. There will be a book launch event after publication is complete. Each writer and every library will receive a copy.

Last month [July] there was a soft rollout of memory kits developed by Health First Memory Clinic. The kits were designed for people with memory issues and to encourage activity.

We offer SNAP benefits at many libraries. SNAP is the supplemental nutrition program offered through Second Harvest Food Bank.

We have a new position open for someone to coordinate community media and marketing as well as help streamline some of our processes.

United Way is gearing up in Brevard County. The County Manager recruited Griselda Clarke, Library Assistant Director, to head up the United Way effort with another Assistant Manager in the county.

River House is being renovated. River House is the house in front of the Catherine Schweinsberg-Rood library. The first floor is being restored to make it light and bright so that we can have smaller programs there.

The Melbourne library celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. There was a great event at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library to unveil the new, updated wall mural sponsored by their Friends group. We also worked with United Way and the Children's Hunger Project this summer to get food to children.

Libby e-books had 15,000 unique users in one month. One hundred users have access to books simultaneously. In Overdrive, we also bought core books in Spanish for kids.

Personal Appearances

Ms. Praver visited the Mims Library.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The meeting schedule for FY25 was discussed and set.

Mr. Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shellabarger. The minutes as written were approved unanimously.

The Board discussed and supplied input for the annual county report.

Comments by Public

None

Comments by County Library Board Members

None

Adjournment

Recorded by Phyllis Stover

Approved October 24, 2024