

Minutes – Melbourne Library Board

MARCH 15, 2022

A meeting of the Melbourne Public Library Board was held at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library, 955 E. University Blvd., March 15, 2022.

Present

- Nancy Dillen, Chairperson
- Judy Davis, Vice Chairperson
- Diane Bryant, Member
- Janet Kull, Member
- Brenda Reilly, Library Director, Eau Gallie Public Library
- Irma Fordham, Library Director, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Melbourne
- Elaine Eschmann, Recording Secretary

Absent

- John Greaves, Member

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM, by Nancy Dillen, Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved with corrections as stated for the February 15, 2022 meeting. Eau Gallie Library report, page 2, paragraph 2, “time” was corrected to “times”. Paragraph 7 should read Artwalk project is being built. There will be 18 different locations. Under Melbourne Library report, page 2, paragraph 8, 2nd sentence should read We still have two open positions which we posted yesterday: a library aide position and a library assistant I position. After that, we will be fully staffed.

Public Comments

Nancy Dillen referred back to the email sent by Sharon Dwyer, as discussed last month. She has since responded stating that the Board decided not to pursue any parking lot concerns at this time due to the plans to present the suggestion to remodel the library.

Unfinished Business

The Eau Gallie renovation letter will be presented to the County Library Board this Thursday, March 17, 10:00 AM.

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Directors' Report

Eau Gallie Library

Brenda Reilly began by stating a correction to the February statistics. Patron attendance for last year, 2021 was reported as 13,340. It should have shown 7,736. Thus, there was an 8% gain, not a loss. Administration has made the change also.

Regarding staffing, the only open position that remains is for a Library Aide. Interviews have been conducted and a candidate selected. The hiring process is moving forward.

Ms. Reilly is in the process of obtaining quotes for new meeting room chairs. Judy Davis asked what happens to the old chairs. Brenda stated that Asset Management prefers that the library have on-site auctions. Therefore, once new chairs are purchased, Asset Management will come to the branch and conduct an auction for the 80-90 chairs. Hopefully, this will be done in the next few months.

There is a ukulele group that will be performing St. Patrick's Day music tomorrow, March 16th at 6:00 PM. All are also invited to check out the display table featuring Women's History month.

Eau Gallie Library, along with DeGroot, now have an on-site advocate to assist patrons with completing and submitting the Emergency Rental Assistance applications.

A book sale and bag sale have recently taken place. A preliminary figure of \$1,500 was reported prior to Saturday.

The Aquarium Artwalk is going on and the library has 3 pictures and 2 books on display.

Melbourne Public Library

Ms. Fordham stated that the Friends' Book Sale was held the end of February. It went well; \$1,150 was collected.

A full-time Library Assistant II has been selected. The person has some Circulation experience, having worked at Palm Bay Library and briefly at the Satellite Beach branch. The original start date was to be March 20th. However, due to a staffing shortage at Satellite Beach, she will now begin at Melbourne on April 3rd. An applicant was also selected for the Library Aide position. The last position to be filled is a Library Assistant I. The final interview will be conducted this Thursday. This has been a difficult position to fill. Only 7 people applied, from which only 2 could be reached for an interview. The position may have to be re-advertised. Diane Bryant asked what the

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position entails. Irma explained that it is in the Circulation department, 25 hours per week.

The City of Melbourne has re-landscaped 2 beds at the front of the library. Florida native plants were put in and the beds were mulched. Ms. Fordham said it looks very nice.

Melbourne is also participating in the Aquarium Artwalk. The library has 5 pieces on display. Irma then gave bookmarks promoting the Artwalk to all Board members. Diane offered to promote the event at her book club. She will pick up more bookmarks to do so. Ms. Fordham welcomed the idea.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Public Library

Things are going well. For Black History Month, a raffle was held. A total of 115 participated. Books for adults, teens, and children along with a candy bar were raffled.

The AARP tax representatives have done 90 tax preparations to date.

The library is fully staffed at this time. The building is in good shape. A work order has been submitted to replace all the can lights in the main area. They do not provide enough light, especially at night. LED panels are being requested.

The library is getting ready for the summer reading program. Performers will be scheduled once again.

Other Business

Judy Davis asked if the Directors had heard anything more regarding Commissioner Tobias' proposal to do away with County Boards. A brief discussion ensued regarding how this might affect the Melbourne Board, which is appointed by the City, if the County Board is eliminated. Nancy Dillen stated that she had contacted Wendi Bost to inquire about the cost of the Board. The amount of \$12,000 per year that was reported seemed high. Wendi had explained to Nancy that it includes a percentage of the employees' salary and time to prepare for and attend each meeting, etc. She said that the amount was justifiable.

Janet Kull then made a comment about the proposed remodel of the Eau Gallie Library. She has noticed that there isn't much in the way of activities for children of tourist families coming to the Melbourne/Eau Gallie area. An improved library could be a draw for them. Nancy added that perhaps another floor should be requested. The members agreed to ask for such when presenting the idea to the County Board.

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Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Next Library Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 3:00 pm at the Melbourne Public Library and the County Library Board on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Melbourne Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

Board Chairperson

Recording Secretary