



Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, January 22, 2021

Deltona Regional Library

2150 Eustace Ave.

Deltona, FL 32725

And

Virtual GoTo Meeting

Attending Members:

Kimberly Hovanecz, Secretary

Jean Fletcher

Thomas Hart

Carol Johnson

Marjorie Johnson

Sue Lombardi

Rev. Donald Needham

Staff:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director

Sharon Whitt, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER:

Carol called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Lucinda asked if all members have reviewed and called for approval of 11/20/2020 minutes

Carol motioned to approve

Don moved motion of minutes to be adopted as printed

Tom Seconded

All in favor

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (see handout)

-Covid Update –

Volusia County Public Library is still in phase II and the positivity rate of Corona virus cases has not dropped significantly enough to move to phase III. In phase II the status is still in hiatus for

donations and volunteers for book sales; materials are still quarantined before returning to circulation; meeting rooms are still closed; no face to face programming for the summer season as determined at this time. Library will continue with story-time live online protocol, and YouTube virtual programming via Instagram.

Library hours continue to be reduced, and fines still remains in no collection status, but unreturned materials are still invoiced as customers will still receive notifications of overdue items.

Five library employees are still assigned to the rental and mortgage assistance program, but the first part of the program is ending in February. New funding was recently passed from a government stimulus package which the county will receive \$16.7 million dollars for continued rental and mortgage assistance. The library will continue to have a role in this program. Also, additional money from the state will come down to the county level to add to the \$16.7 million.

-2021 Legislative Agenda(see handouts):

-State Aid- On page 12 of the 2021 handout under Public Libraries it's requested that State aid be restored to historic levels in the amount of \$33 million. Year 2020 was the first year Volusia County with their lobbyist included state aid.

Lucinda commented that she is happy to see that the county continues to see public libraries as a priority and the county is supporting a higher level than the Florida Library Association.

Last year the state legislature did not fund state aid at a maintenance of effort level for federal funding therefore anticipate a significant reduction in funding from the LSTA Federal Grant program. The impact for Volusia County will be a reduction in services offered at the state library level. This means potentially discontinuing access to Gale databases that are currently provided by the State of Florida. This will affect many Library users that use our library to do research using Gale databases.

The library is looking at ways locally, and evaluating which databases to include on the website. Brook White (Collection Development Mgr.) is working on a committee with NEFLIN to evaluate if any of the Gale databases could be funded through NEFLIN for Northeast Florida libraries.

Don asked: what will actually take place and what is hoped will take place from the 2021 State Legislative Agenda.

Lucinda answered: Basically what is needed from the library's part is that the legislature fund at a level that meets the maintenance of effort federal funding of \$23 million.

Lucinda commented there needs to be a push with legislature, especially from Volusia county Delegators to fund state aid because the library relies on these databases. The databases are not heavily used but are essential for a well-rounded collection

for public libraries in Florida. The scarce use would cause non-local funding, but as a collection from the state, will then get funded through the state, therefore making them available to every citizen of Florida.

State aid was only funded at \$15.6 million for year 2021, well below the \$23 million Maintenance of effort to guarantee federal funding.

The other concern would be to fund the Library Cooperative Grant Program (Funding that would go to various cooperatives around the state of Florida [NEFLIN for Volusia County]) for \$2 million, but this amount was vetoed by the governor.

Cooperatives provide training, and STEM resources to public libraries.

-Volusia County State Legislative Agenda (see handout)

Lucinda request board members to reach out to Volusia County's delegation because of the importance of state aid to public libraries. She will distribute a fact sheet to library board members and Friends of the library through email attachment to have accessible when discussing these concerns to legislators.

-CIP Update:

Daytona Beach Regional Library- Expanded playground for 2-5 year olds in December 2020 (Also looking to include some form of playground equipment to the Deltona Regional Library for year 2022 budget);

Flood Mitigation project to begin approximately March/April 2021 and completed by June 2021. 90% of the project will be funded by FEMA, 5% state matched, 5% library matched (\$46000.00)

Edgewater Library- Refresh/Renovation project to include improving public restrooms, floor covering in early April 2021, children's room with camp theme, area furniture, computer and wifi counters, new roof, and exterior painting.

A lot of the renovation is done in house by the library maintenance crew which is more cost effective.

Deland Regional Library – Sealing and painting of exterior because of water leak issues since year 1989; Remove and replace drywall because of moisture issues.

-Volusia County Water Utility Payments:

The library will now accept water utility payments and turn on service request at seven branches This is from Amendment 10 and the creation of the tax collector's office. The county tag and title office went to the tax collector's office, the revenue dept. became the treasury and billing division and is now reduced to one office in Deland. The water and utilities are now in unincorporated areas.

The program was originally designed with 2 kiosks at the Debary and Edgewater libraries. The kiosks accept credit card, cash, and check. The program has expanded because the water/utilities division became concerned about more ways and places for people to pay their water/utility bill, so the library was asked to accept payments at Debary, Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach, Deltona, Daytona Beach, Hope Place, and Ormond Beach 7 locations. This expanded the process so patrons have two options: go to the library's Surf Cat stations and pay by credit/debit card or go to the service desk to pay with cash or check.

Don doesn't agree with the library taking on this responsibility and service. His main concern is it may cause a large liability to the library if a payment goes wrong and a patron's water is cut off. Marjorie thinks it's a wonderful program because it provides additional places for people to go to make their payments especially since libraries are open later hours, and asked how this new service is being promoted.

Lucinda answered the program is promoted through utility billing. The pilot program started with soft openings at Debary, Deltona, and Edgewater libraries. Currently Debary has had a larger response to the service.

Lucinda commented that the library has become a huge part of county activities which makes it critical part of their services and this shows why the library continues to support hiring more library staff and fulfilling positions to manage these new services.

Staff has done a great job of taking in these new services to provide to the community.

-2020 Highlights-

Top 10 checkout titles: Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens; Becoming by Michelle Obama; Educated by Tara Westover; Jack Reacher: Blue Moon by Lee Child; A Minute to Midnight by David Baldacci; The Giver Stars by Jojo Moyes; The Night Fire by Michael Connelly; The silent Patient by Alex Michaelides; Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng; and The Guardians by John Grisham

Staff has done an excellent job in providing virtual programs through live online storytime programming-35798; virtual programming through YouTube videos-22909, Curbside pickup-34775(patrons are still using curbside pickup and have commented on how this service is great), LitKits To Go service-1676 (some of the comment cards are written by children who love this service), HotSpot checkouts-6204(huge use of this service), Public access computer sessions-94222; and a New Online Book Club.

In 2020 two million items were circulated with 120339 active cardholders despite the corona virus pandemic.

Don commended staff for doing a great job of the notification service for reservations, due date notices, and phone call reminders on returns.

Carol asked about the status of the online Hoopla resource transformation from Axis 360.

Lucinda answered that Hoopla has been and continues to be very successful. The patrons who were skeptical in the beginning about the service are very pleased with the service and will continue to use it. The reservations, authors, and titles they had with Axis 360 didn't go away with the transformation to Hoopla.

Marjorie asked how the homeless community without addresses are able to get library cards. Lucinda answered the library issues a library card strictly for online resources and public computer access for homeless patrons without a physical address. Some local agencies do provide a card to use as a mailing address for use in obtaining full access to library card use.

-Institute of County Government – Best Practices Award

The library's youth services department was awarded the 2020 Best Practices Award by the Florida Institute for County Government.

Volusia County Public Library was selected for "The Youth Services in a Pandemic: From Obstacles to Innovation award provided to staff because of the innovation of the LitKit Service.

The LitKit service also was awarded the NEFLIN Innovation Award.

OLD BUSINESS:

-2021 – Meeting dates/locations (see handout)

Locations with large rooms were selected due to the pandemic. This caused for duplication at some locations.

The last November 2021 meeting will be at the Library Support Center with the anticipation that the pandemic restrictions will be lifted.

The GoTo Meeting will continue as an option for the meetings.

-Terms ending March 31 – applications

Lucinda sent an email with the applications, and the county also sent notifications. Advised members to submit applications by deadline if they would like to continue as a board member.

Marjorie asked about the deadline date for the application.

Lucinda will verify deadline and notify board member by email.

NEW BUSINESS:

Don commented the library is doing a great job despite the pandemic conditions, and commended staff for always having a positive attitude with smiles, compared to some other organizations.

Tom and Marjorie agreed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

C. Jefferson who was absent but had a question regarding if all board positions were open for an application.

Lucinda answered that all positions are open and it is up to the county council member who's responsible for that position to appoint someone. The applications are on the county's website: Volusia.org and anyone can apply. Five positions are district specific and two are at large. The county chair has the at large appointment.

Don suggested to contact Karissa Green if anyone needs help or have any questions. Call the county operator and ask for Ms. Green's office.

ADJOURNMENT:

Don asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Marjorie seconded motion.

Carol adjourned meeting at 10:58am.

Next meeting: Friday, March 26, 2021 at 10:00am. Location: Port Orange Regional Library

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Whitt