



Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, March 26, 2021

Port Orange Regional Library

1001 City Center Cir.

Port Orange, FL 32129

And

Virtual GoTo Meeting

Attending Members:

Kimberly Hovanecz, Secretary

Thomas Hart

Carol Johnson

Marjorie Johnson

Rev. Donald Needham

Members Not Present:

Sue Lombardi

Staff:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director

Sharon Whitt, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER:

Lucinda called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Meeting minutes of Friday, January 22, 2021 were approved

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (see handout)

-Covid19 Update –

Volusia County Public Library is still in phase II and planning to start incorporating back to normal library services beginning fall 2021 to include accepting donations, taking in volunteers, book sales, meeting room rentals and some outdoor children's programs at select locations. Library will continue virtual programming as this will give some families without an opportunity to attend physical programming the ability to attend at home, at a time that works for them. Library hours will plan to resume normal operating hours starting in fall 2021.

Summer food program sites will be open for the grab and go breakfast and lunch.
Library attendance use has increased since more patrons are getting the cov19 vaccine.

-2021 Legislative Agenda Update (see handouts):

- Emails and phone numbers of Volusia County's State Legislative Delegation handout provided and includes telephone numbers per Marjorie's request.

- Florida Library Association 2021 Legislative Platform and Priorities handout provided:
Funding Initiatives:

On March 24th the Senate Appropriation Sub-committee on Transportation/ Tourism and Economic Development met to discuss the state aid to public libraries. The subcommittee initially had a \$2 million dollar increase to state aid for public libraries and grant funding, bringing the budget amount to over \$19 million, still lower than requested, but better than the \$17 million requested by the Department of State. Cooperative grant funding appropriate recurring is \$2 million; Public library Construction Grants appropriate recurring is \$ 16, 800,000.

The House Appropriation Subcommittee met on March 25th and the budget had no reference to the \$17 million state aid, no construction funding, but did have the \$2 million for the multi-type library cooperative funding that provides funds for a lot of library training, which there was no funding for this in FY 2020.

-Capital Improvement Update:

Edgewater Library- Closed to Public including book drop during 4/5/2021 – 4/25/2021.
New floor coverings, interior painting, new furniture, and miscellaneous renovations.

Deland Regional Library- Closed for last 2 weeks in March to remove, replace, seal and paint drywall, because of moisture and leak issues since year 1989. The main circulation desk is still open. Customers are able to pick up their reserved items, browse DVDs and new books. The first floor will be open to the public on Saturday, March 27th which will include the children's room and DVD area. Second floor access to the public computer area anticipates to be open by Wednesday, March 31st.

Daytona Beach Regional Library – Flood Mitigation project to start in April 2021 with an anticipated completion date in June 2021. The scope of the project will be to replace designated Store front glass; replace designated doors; flood proof walls.

-Student Success Library Pass:

Goal: Allow every student in the Volusia County Public School system access to public library Resources using a student alpha code and default pin number issued to them during the kindergarten enrollment.

Why: Remove the physical barrier of coming to a library to get a physical card; expands resources to students in their homes, classrooms, etc; ensures every student has easy access to

their local library; eliminates blocked cards for school children with fines/fees on their traditional library card since some adults use their children's cards.

Process: Students are automatically enrolled and will use their alpha code and default Pin code. No issuance of physical card. Student library access would not be associated with any other library card account. Students can still have a traditional library card in addition to the student access account.

Student Data: School district will provide a database with Students name, alpha code, birth date, grade, and school zip code. The database will be updated periodically, purged in July, uploaded in August.

Parents and/or guardians will have the ability to opt-out of the program

Student Access: Student will be eligible to borrow up to 3 books (DVDs are not included) with no overdue or lost book charges. Eligible to download ebooks, eAudiobooks, music, and magazines; Connect with tutors and receive homework help via tutor.com; research articles from magazines, newspapers, and reference materials; Use public access computers at any library branch.

Costs: Looking at all youth cards from birth to age 17 the value of the materials that became long-overdue that were never return had an estimated cost in FY 2019 was \$16, 038, and FY 2020 \$13966. When the database purges, the materials that were never returned will also purge. So an approximate amount will be \$20000 of materials that may never return. The use of adults using youth cards was taken into considerations for this amount.

Questions Answered:

The parent has a choice when applying for a physical library card the option not to allow their child to check out adult DVDs on a youth card.

A student will start with a clean slate after database purging at the beginning of each school year/fall which will unblock access if a student had not return library items during the school year.

The library will work with the Volusia Schools media specialist to assist in promoting this program

Automatic enrollment is given to all students enrolled in Volusia County Schools.

The main goal and concern of Volusia Schools regarding this program is to make sure students have access to library resources.

This may be extended to Homeschool students possibly in phase II, but most homeschool students are already heavy library users.

The only true costs of program will be the costs of non-returned items which would normally not return.

Recommended Motion: Lucinda proposed the Library Advisory Board recommends developing a partnership between Volusia County Public Library and Volusia County Public Schools to allow

every student enrolled in Volusia County Public Schools access to public library resources through the Student Access Library Pass Program.

All board members present approved motion of recommendation to the Student Access Library Pass Program

-Fines on Materials

Why Do Libraries Charge Fines? To encourage library users to return materials; As a reminder of a library user's responsibility and to be considerate of others who might want to check out an item.

Steps Taken to remind library users about overdue items:

- Send original email when items are almost due
- Send a series of 4 emails when items become overdue
- Volunteers and staff telephone call at 14 days overdue
- Shelf checks at 21 days overdue
- Invoice to customers mailed at 28 days overdue which includes a \$10 invoice fee
- At 42 days overdue, delinquent adult accounts with a balance above \$25 are turned over to our materials recovery service, which includes a \$10 collection fee

What other library systems are eliminating fines? Many throughout the United States. Some library systems in Florida that have already eliminated fines are Tampa-Hillsborough, Sarasota Public Library, Miami-Dade Public Library, Pasco County Public Library, and Palm Beach Public Library.

What library users are most affected by fines? Nearly one out of every four accounts, 39% youth, 35% teens, and 31% adults. Also cards that checkout children's materials have the highest rate of fines. 9% of new cardholders are also affected by fines. Overall 24% (38,812 of library users)

What happens when libraries eliminates Fines? Library card registrations increase; borrowing of materials increases; more items are returned, more student visit for homework resources, staff time redirects from fines-handling to customer-focused services.

Will eliminating fines reduce library revenue? Statistics found that it is far more valuable to the community to increase access to library collections. Revenues from fines have already decreased consistently over recent years because of stronger efforts to remind library users of due dates, overdue materials, and a growing demand for digital resources (no fines on digital resources). Statistics also show that since 2009, fines revenue dropped by more than 50%. During the Cov19 pandemic fines collection was stopped in March 2020, but a pandemic forced test showed that 1% of items circulated were long overdue during **both** pandemic and non-pandemic periods.

What happens if an item is not returned? The due date remains and the library will continue to send overdue notices; Invoices mail out will continue with a \$10 invoice fee; overdue accounts blocked; and continued utilization of material recovery process which is a budget neutral service.

What would happen to old overdue fines? Past overdue fines would be removed from cardholder accounts, but charges for unreturned, incomplete, or damaged items will remain on the account.

Cardholder overdue fines paid before enactment of a no fine policy will not be eligible for a refund.

All board members present approved motion of recommendation of Volusia County Public Library to eliminate fines on overdue library materials, while continuing to charge the cost of item(s) for unreturned materials, along with an invoicing fee of \$10.00 and collections fee of \$10.00 to recover long overdue materials.

Questions answered:

Next step of the Student Success Library Pass and Fine Elimination process is to present and review with Suzanne Konchan, deputy county manager.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reminder to board members: Terms end March 31, 2021

NEW BUSINESS:

Jean Fletcher has resigned her board status

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

BOARD DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 11:09am.

Next meeting: Friday, May 21, 2021 at 10:00am. Location: Ormond Beach Regional Library

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Whitt