



Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ormond Beach Regional Library

30 S Beach Street

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

(386)-676-4191

Attending Members:

Deborah Dubois, District 1
Patsy Franklin, District 4
Debra Grabowski, At Large
Christy Jefferson, District 5
Marjorie Johnson, District 2
Rev. Donald Needham, District 3
Paul Richardson, At Large

Staff:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director
Sharon Whitt, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER:

Don called meeting to order at 10:01am

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

September 15, 2023 minutes were approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIR – Don: Paul nominated Don as Chair. Marjorie seconded. All were in favor.

VICE-CHAIR – Marjorie: Marjorie was voted in as Vice Chair

SECRETARY – Deborah Dubois: Paul nominated Deborah Dubois as Secretary. Don seconded. All were in favor.

Lucinda replied to Christy's inquiry regarding the job of the secretary. The secretary will draft a letter or send an email on behalf of the board for approval to send to legislators.

MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS FOR 2024

There were no objections to the 2024 library board meeting schedule

Lucinda explained to Marjorie that Ormond Beach Regional Library was not included in the 2024 schedule to give members an opportunity to meet at different locations and was switched with New Smyrna which was not visited in 2023.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dickerson Library Update

A contractor has been selected and was scheduled on the county council's agenda for December 19, 2023

Lucinda and Melissa Reynolds have selected furniture for the building. The Restoration portion will be twelve percent, reimbursed by FEMA, and insurance pays for some of the restoration.

Restoration starts after January 1, 2024.

Resilient Florida Grant – Flood Mitigation – Daytona Regional

Scheduled for county council's agenda on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. The council has been asked to approve to accept an \$800,000.00 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Phase II and III for the Daytona Regional Flood Mitigation project, to provide flood gates at the west and north storefront entrances of the building. Phase I of the mitigation was funded by FEMA.

The library will match the \$800,000.00 that was saved aside for the project.

Social Worker in The Library Program:

Lucinda provided library social worker brochures to board members.

The program is funded through the American Rescue Plan, which the county council approved \$480,000 put in place until FY 2026.

The social workers serviced 534 clients from April 25, 2023 through September 28, 2023.

There are two social workers, one for the east and west of Volusia County. Services include assisting clients to find help with careers, employment, food assistance, health insurance, housing, mental health services, transportation, citizenship, etc.

Last summer the Sheriff's Department Foundation donated some refurbished bikes to the library and the social workers incorporated them into the program by providing bikes to some kids through a raffle, and some adult clients to be used as transportation for work. One client was able to find a job through the program and receive a bike as transportation to get to work.

The Ormond Friends of the library funded locks for the bikes.

Melissa Reynolds, Northeast Regional Librarian and Eastside Social Worker Amanda connected with the River to Sea TPO organization to provide bike helmets.

Patsy gave recognition to Melissa, Amanda, Rusty and Chad (library maintenance staff) to refurbish some of the bikes.

The library is currently accepting bikes for donations and Lucinda is looking forward to providing additional service with the bike program.

Christy commented that she may have a friend that could help refurbish some donated bikes.

Lucinda replied to Deborah that the social workers are employees of the county through the community assistance division.

Library Management Update - New Library Information Systems Manager

A new Library IT Activity Project Manager, Ron Costanza has been hired to replace Anne Powers who is retiring on December 30, 2023. Ron has reported to the position and is currently in training with Anne. He came to the library from the Judicial court system and is familiar with Volusia County and has worked closely with the County's IT department.

Don commented to give props from the board to Anne Powers, to congratulate and wish her a happy retirement, and to thank her for many years of service.

Lucinda commented that Anne has been on the forefront of technology for libraries in Volusia County and noted that the library was the first to have a website, and Facebook before the county. Paul motioned to send a thank you card to Anne Powers from the board. Marjorie seconded. Anne Collins has also put in a notice to resign employment with Volusia County Public Library on Tuesday November 21, 2023.

The board will also send a thank you letter to Anne Collins.

The library has a lot of high-end employment vacancies available:

Ormond Regional – Librarian IV, Branch Manager

Daytona Regional – Librarian III, Adult Services

New Smyrna Beach Regional – Librarian III, Youth Services

Deltona Regional – Librarian IV, Branch Manager

Westside Regional Librarian

Lucinda replied to Marjorie's inquiry on what methods the library uses to advertise for employment, through the Florida Library Job website, Indeed.com, and other national websites.

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Statistics (See Handout):

The report shows library use statistics and market value of services received.

It highlights:

690,617 Adult Books circulated with a market value of \$11,740,489

602,611 Children and Teen Books circulated with a market value of \$8,737,860

Don asked board members to encourage friends to make use and become familiar with all of the library services, including the online services.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paul asked if someone from the Deland Library would come to the next board meeting to speak on behalf of the creative writing program that will start on January 19, 2024. He would like to promote creative writing with youth in the community.

Lucinda replied to Marjorie's inquiry on an update of banned books. It is not an issue for Volusia County Public Library. The library has a policy and form if someone objects to a book. It goes before a review committee. The library serves the entire community including each member of the family, so there is a wide range of material included the collection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Don wanted to mention why the Friends of the library brought up the subject about last meetings' New Business regarding what happened to the funds of a library association that has resolved, but want to make sure anyone in any current Friends associations or any member of library by association are not held accountable by being unaware of the situation of inappropriate use of funds. He wants to make sure each Friends group is properly incorporated and subject to audit each year, and is a standard piece of business. It is owed to contributors and staff to not be held accountable for inappropriate use of funds.

Lucinda responded that she has reviewed this subject and has confirmed a number of times with county legal that the county library and county library advisory board has absolutely no authority over outside organization although they support individual libraries. The library has no authority to require organizations to be incorporated or have an annual audit. They are encouraged to be registered with the state to protect the officers and members but are not authorized by the library to do so.

Don replied that his concern is to have due diligence and have protection because the organizations make use of library buildings. Therefore, he would like to see written documentation that the library is not responsible for unauthorized use of funds by association. The protection would be for staff, people making donations or those working with Friends of the library to not be held liable for any misdeeds.

Lucinda mentioned she will definitely survey the Friends groups that currently exist to check their status regarding the situation.

Don asked if there has been a push to censor library material. Lucinda replied the library have not had any real pushes to censor library material and the majority of the people in the community realize that public libraries are different and serve the entire community compared to schools that serve the school population. Libraries do not act in place of the parents or guardians and ask parents and guardians if children will be unescorted to the library, that children know what's inappropriate to bring home to read, listen to, or watch.

Lucinda replied to Christy's request on an update of the volunteer tracking system for the hours that the county wants volunteers to use for the program. Tammy Heuring had a meeting on Tuesday November 14, 2023 with all of the branch volunteer representatives to implement a library volunteer system.

All volunteers must complete a level II background with fingerprinting, which is conducted through the county human resources department. The county has provided a new volunteer software to track the hours.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Lucinda introduced Melissa Reynolds, Northeast Regional Librarian to the new board members and public.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Paul will send an email regarding a Thanksgiving article to board members per Christy's request.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 11:03am

Next meeting scheduled: Friday, January 19, 2024 at 10:00am.

Location: Deland Regional Library, 130 E. Howry Ave. Deland, FL. 32724

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Whitt