



Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, March 24, 2023

Port Orange Regional Library

1005 City Center Circle

Port Orange, FL 32129

(386)-322-5152

Attending Members:

Rev. Donald Needham, District 3

Patsy Frankly, District 4

Christy Jefferson, District 5

Thomas Hart, At Large

Debra Grabowski, At Large

Non-Attending Members:

Louise Caccamise, District 1

Marjorie Johnson, District 2

Staff:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director

Sharon Whitt, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER:

Thomas called meeting to order at 10:00am

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Don moved adoption as printed.

Christy seconded.

All were in favor

Minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dickerson Library Update:

February 6, 2023 was the grand opening of the John H Dickerson Library Modular in place of the building that was damaged during Hurricane Ian. A mass Email was sent out to area library users regarding information of the opening. The Modular is 1300 sq ft. providing wifi access, public access computers, and adult and youth collection materials. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm, Friday 10:00am-5:00pm.

The library is working towards restoring the damaged building.

Christy asked if it's possible to donate children's books as give-aways.

Lucinda answered yes, donated give-away books are welcomed. She will notify Brook White, collection development manager of the donation process for the give-aways for Christy. The give-away books should be sent to the Library Support Center to the attention of Brook White.

Volusia Reads Together Update: Annual Community Read Program

This year's read is Project Hail Mary by: Andy Weir. So far there have been 200 programs provided to the public.

The Port Orange Regional Library and Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach hosted successful performances of the original play Moon Suit written and directed by Karen Poulson. Next year will be Karen's last play as she is retiring. The play was inspired by the seamstresses that worked on the original astronaut suits that went to the moon. There were over 500 that attended the performances.

Programs will continue through April 1st with a Space Day finale at the Port Orange Regional Library during 12:30pm – 4:00pm for all family members.

The feature presentation at 1:00pm will be Daniel Florez, Journey back to the Moon. A presentation about the first step toward being able to travel to Mars, and share information about the Artemis program and how NASA plans to return astronauts to the moon before the end of this decade.

The day ends with an Astrophage foam party at 3:00pm.

Budget Update:

The library is working on recommendations for the FY2024 budget and plans to ask for Rollback. A Rollback for the same revenue as last year but a 2% increase from last year because of new construction. The projection looks to Rollback for the next several years for library fund.

There has been a struggle because of a significant increase in cost in all areas of library operations: Security has a huge \$300,000 increase going into FY 2024, in addition to an increase in supply cost for building maintenance and for printing.

The April 4th County Council meeting will include reappointments on the agenda. The meeting is a "day" meeting. It will also include a service level and budget presentation by Donna Butler, Community Services Director. Lucinda will attend and answer questions about library services and will send library board members a listing of the presentation once posted.

Capital Improvement Projects Update:

Edgewater Library – Supplies have been received and vendors are currently working on the roof.

New Smyrna Beach – Stucco project has been moved to FY2024 because it has not yet gone out to bid and since library is six months into FY 2023's budget. This is a \$500,000 project that will be moved to FY 2024.

Debary Library – Library is currently working with vendors to install gutters. The gutters will help prevent repairs from water running down the walls and into windows.

Library Support Center – Waiting on new generator. It was delayed because of supply chain issues.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant:

The library will go to county council for approval to accept this grant. It is part of the resilient Florida program. The Daytona Beach mitigation project was awarded \$800,000.00. The library currently has \$745,000 budgeted for Phase II of the flood mitigation project. Phase I was funded with a FEMA grant, and Phase II was budgeted in the construction funding. Both funding will allow completion of Phase I and Phase II with the storefront South and East of the building where most of the water intrusion took place. Phase III will be for the north and west side store fronts.

The library is currently out to bid for Phase II, and Phase III is an alternate because of uncertainty of success of receiving the grant. Once council approves the library will proceed with Phase II and Phase III.

Florida Humanities Grant Application:

This funding will support the 2023 "All Together Now" Summer Reading program and help library to work with the Lyonia Environmental summer camp, similar to last year's Volusia County summer camp which the library provided reading kits to keep children reading and participating in literacy activities during the summer. Lucinda is confident of receipt of the grant.

RFP Integrated Library System (ILS):

On Friday March 17th the library opened to accept proposals for a new Integrated Library System to replace SurfCat and V-smart, the online catalog and all circulation functions.

Don inquired as to the reason for needing a new ILS. Lucinda answered that she received a letter in January 2022 that the current vendor was bought by Axiell company based out of the Netherlands. The company indicated that the product currently used will be phased out and will need to switch to Axiell's product. But there is no English language version of their product. Axiell will submit a proposal, but the library is also looking at American based companies. There are a lot of functionalities that the current system does not have that the library would like to upgrade.

Library staff have been working on this project for more than six months for everything needed and not needed. Lucinda included there are only two companies in the U.S. using V-smart (Volusia County and East Baton Rouge Louisiana) but all other libraries have migrated to other vendors. She expects to have three to five proposals. The only stipulation given to vendors that will submit proposals is that the library is not interested in an open-source product requiring a full-time programmer.

Don inquired about the cost expectation of the new ILS system. Lucinda said there will be an initial cost to acquire the system, then a lower annual maintenance cost. The budget will be approximately \$300,000 for the migration. A FY2008 migration would have cost the library \$1,000,000. Christy asked if the library will get reference from other libraries regarding their use of an ILS. Lucinda said the library will look at what other Florida libraries are using. Lucinda included after May 4th the technical committee (4 library employees and someone from county IT), and the selection committee (division directors) will review the proposals.

Series of Staff Training Days:

There will be library staff training days:

April 20, 2023 for Adult Services

April 27, 2023 for Youth Services

May 4, 2023 for Circulation Services

Don inquired on the status of where the library stands in getting financial support from the county and/or the state, and does the library have support from local politicians.

Lucinda answered we are holding steady with state aid of \$350,000 - \$380,000 per year. The Florida Library association continues to ask people to advocate for state aid. Lucinda also included that the April 4, 2023 County Council meeting will shed some light on the support received from local politicians.

Lucinda will send board members the video on the input given at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Don asked if all current board members are up for appointment.

Lucinda answered all appointments ends on March 31st, but if all would like to be considered for reappointment a new application must be submitted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Thomas adjourned meeting at 10:33am

Next meeting scheduled: Friday, May 19, 2023 at 10:00am.

Location: Debarry Public Library, 200 N. Charles R Beall Blvd. Debarry, FL. 32713

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Whitt