



Manatee Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2019

Central Library Business Incubator, 2 p.m.

Roll Call

Present

- Cathy Laird
- Tammy Parrott
- Artis Wick
- Patsy Ugarte

Excused

- Myron Robinson
- Councilman Patrick Roff
- Beverly Neville

Guests

- None

Call to Order

2:02 p.m. by Artis Wick, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes

Artis Wick inquired if everyone reviewed the minutes of September 19, 2019 and if there were any comments, suggestions or corrections. No corrections were made. However, since a quorum was not present, Chairperson Wick agreed to table the approval of minutes until the November 2019 meeting.

Library Manager's Report/Board Updates

Introductions

- Cathy Laird introduced herself. She has been at the Braden River Library for the past 20 years. Ava asked Cathy to assume the role of Interim Library Services Manager after Glenda's departure and as Tammy Parrott came on board. Cathy stated that she and Tammy are acting as a team and are helping each other to accomplish tasks. Prior to working for Manatee County, Cathy worked at the Safety Harbor Library in Pinellas County for 10 years.

- Originally hailing from the Midwest, Tammy Parrott joined Manatee County Libraries as the Assistant Library Services Manager at the end of September. Prior to coming here, Tammy served as an Assistant Director in a New Hampshire public library where she was the head of Adult Services, Tech Services and Operations. One major accomplishment was her role working on a large construction project. Previously, Tammy worked in a variety of libraries, ranging from small, rural and medium sized libraries to large urban systems. In addition to her MLIS degree, Tammy earned a degree in Public Administration which has served her well in completing administrative tasks. Tammy grew up in Omaha, NE, but spent most of her adult life in Kansas City (Kansas and Missouri) and worked at an Independence, MO branch near the Presidential Library.
- Artis Wick introduced herself, sharing that she is originally from Chicago and has lived in this area for 38 years. She retired 6 years ago and worked as a librarian at the Ringling Library for a dozen years (and worked at the Ringling Museum itself for 23 years). Artis has proudly served on the Library Advisory Board for 12 years.
- Patsy Ugarte was asked by Cheri Coryea to be on the Library Advisory Board representing the City of Palmetto. She and her husband have an architectural firm in Palmetto. In her “spare” time, she has proudly volunteered for 24 years for the Manatee Agricultural Extension Services.

Library Usage Statistics

- Library material usage for the month of September 2019 was up nearly 17,000 compared to this time last year, which is an indication that we're on target and are meeting our goals.

Hispanic Heritage Festival

- Over 200 people attended the first annual Hispanic Heritage Festival. Many activities took place outside including live music, dancers, bilingual storytelling, and a free dental screening bus. Festival Chairperson Aileen Valdes (Palmetto Assistant Supervisor) was thrilled to hear Spanish spoken by attendees! The committee wishes to hold the festival again next year due to its overwhelming success.

Manatee County Annual Hiring Fair

- Held on September 23 in the Central Library, the annual Manatee County hiring fair featured over 40 local employers. The Libraries partnered with Manatee County Human Resources, Career Source Suncoast, and Goodwill Manasota. Nearly 300 job seekers had the chance to explore careers, get free help with resume writing, and network. The number of attendees was slightly less than last year perhaps due to a lower jobless rate. We plan on holding this event annually.

Employee of the Month

- Lorrie See, Administrative Services Coordinator, was selected as Manatee County's Employee of the Month for October 2019.

Programming Librarian

- Rachel Suntop was chosen as a programming librarian for the library system. Rachel formerly was a “floating” librarian. In her new role, she will develop adult and children's programming for the makerspace labs, focusing on sewing, Cricut machines, and crafts. Cathy elaborated that makerspaces are areas where people may create and collaborate with specialized equipment (such as 3D printers, coding, video production, book binding,

and Cricut paper and vinyl cutting machines). Each library is focusing on their own niche. The most robust makerspace is at Central Library where Daniel Aken works. He will travel to other branches too. Makerspaces offer the flexibility of open hours to use the resources or the ability to teach classes.

Read to the Dogs

- Children may read to the dogs one Saturday per month at the Braden River Library. This program involves trained service animals and is very popular.

Hour of Code

- Palmetto hosted an “hour of code” series of classes where children learned how to use computers.

Lunch, Listen and Learn Series

- Rocky Bluff Library began its 4th season of its popular “Lunch, Listen and Learn” monthly concerts. It was kicked off by talented musician Undine Shorey, a former library staff member. Undine played her violin and chronicled her musical career.

Voyagers’ Travel Program

- Our Voyagers’ trip to Greece was extremely successful! Next year, the group will embark to Central Europe on September 28. This travel and educational program aims to reach different age groups and interests by increasing cultural awareness. Asked by Patsy if all supplies are free, Cathy responded that yes, for the most part classes are free but consumables must be replaced as needed.

Update on Construction Projects

- The expansion for Braden River Library is making progress. Property Management Department planners and engineers will look at the building details and will consult with Library Administration for library-specific details, all within budgetary constraints (Patsy called this, “value engineering.”). Tammy added that they will use creative problem solving to establish priorities for a cohesive, unified space and determine what aspects may be deferred to a later date. Cathy stated that the renovation will include a 2nd meeting room, makerspace and additional study rooms. Construction is anticipated to start in February 2020, lasting roughly 1 year (worse case scenario).
- The proposed 24,000 square foot East County Library will be constructed at the Premier Sports Complex site off of Lorraine Road and State Road 70. The request for proposal with architects and the design/build team has been completed by the chosen firm has not been announced yet. The library will be the first County facility located there. Other County departments may be constructed there as well, but no decision has been reached.

Old Business

- None.

Citizens’ Comment

- None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 2 p.m., at the LIT (LITtle Discovery Center, 321 15th Street West in Bradenton).

Adjourn

Chairperson Wick motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was accepted by Patsy Ugarte and seconded by Artis Wick. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.