



Manatee Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019

Central Library Business Incubator, 2 p.m.

Roll Call

Present

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

Excused

- Myron Robinson
- Councilman Patrick Roff

Guests

- None

Call to Order

1:59 p.m. by Artis Wick, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes

Artis Wick inquired if everyone reviewed the minutes of September 19, 2019 and October 17, 2019 and if there were any comments, suggestions or corrections. No corrections were made. Beverly Neville made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Both sets of minutes were seconded by Patsy Ugarte. Therefore, Artis Wick announced the minutes were approved as written.

Library Manager's Report/Board Updates

Rocky Bluff Library 25th Anniversary and Palmetto Library 50th Anniversary

- Cathy Laird stated that she and Tammy Parrott attended the 25th anniversary of the Rocky Bluff Library. The celebration featured live ukulele music, a giant cake, a puppeteer telling the story of the 'Friendly Giant,' and games. Commissioner Priscilla Trace gave an impassioned speech about the importance of libraries. They also attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Palmetto Library. The Palmetto branch

has the distinction of being the second County facility to have a dedicated room for their makerspace.

Braden River’s Children’s Fall Festival

- The Braden River Library hosted a Candyland-themed Children’s Fall Festival. Teen volunteers decorated and held the successful event.

Escape Room

- Youth Librarians Renee Stokes and Chris Culp planned and hosted a very successful geography-themed escape room for kids based on “Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?” Escape rooms have been gaining in popularity across the nation. The intent is for a group of people to collaborate and solve a puzzle to “escape” a room within a certain time period. Tammy commented that in some commercial spaces, participants physically escape a room to conquer the challenge.

Kids’ Biz Fair

- A Kids’ Biz Fair will be held on January 25 at Braden River Library. Children aged 10-18 are invited to sell their products and services at an entrepreneurial fair. This event allows them to learn first-hand best practices and showcase their talents and ideas. Last year at Rocky Bluff Library, a crowd favorite was homemade dog biscuits.

Library Usage Statistics

- Library material usage statistics compared favorably to circulation numbers from the same time last year. Tammy noted that we just have one comparison dot on the Dashboard statistics’ sheet thus far for this fiscal year.

Long Range Plan

- The current Library Long Range Plan drafted by Neighborhood Department Director Ava Ehde and then Library Services Manager Glenda Lammers was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2017. The document is intended to be broader in scope than a more detailed Annual Plan of Service. Since Cathy Laird is temporarily filling in as the Interim Library Services Manager, she proposes that the current Long Range Plan be extended through Fiscal Year 2021 to provide the new Library Administration team adequate time to analyze and draft their own document. Beverly Neville suggested that when the new Long Range Plan is written, it should only be for a 3-year time timeframe rather than the current 5-year horizon since technology and resources change frequently. Other Board members agreed.

East County Library

- Manatee County officials remain in negotiation with the design-build team. No public announcement has been made at this time.

Braden River Library Renovation

- Manatee County officials are looking for money to replace the existing air conditioning system, install a generator, and provide cosmetic updated to the facility. This maintenance will coincide with the building’s expansion.

Rocky Bluff Facility Updates

- A fence will be installed at Rocky Bluff Library to secure tools in an enclosed tool shed which houses the “Library of Things” collection. As a result, it should also make staff feel safer. Also being considered is enclosing the outside children’s space and creating one or two interior study rooms.

Maintenance at Libraries

- At Palmetto, doors are planned to be added between the circulation desk and children’s area. Central Library will repaint meeting room walls after white boards and Starboards were replaced by televisions.

Library Master Plan

- Neighborhood Services Department is awaiting an update from consultants Godfrey and Associates (of Texas) regarding the Library Master Plan. Manatee County officials are willing to take the time needed to get a quality product. Ideally, the Library Master Plan would direct the Long Range Plan.

Library Advisory Board Appointments

- Terms for three Library Advisory Board members will expire on January 31, 2020 including: Patsy Ugarte, representing the City of Palmetto; Beverly Neville, representing the Island Communities; and Patrick Roff, representing the City of Bradenton. Patsy Ugarte announced she will seek re-appointment. County Administrator Cheri Coryea originally asked Ms. Ugarte to serve on the Advisory Board. Beverly Neville announced she will not seek re-appointment after serving 12 years. At this time, it is unknown if Patrick Roff will seek re-appointment.

Old Business

- Beverly Neville inquired if the books she suggested at a previous meeting were ever added to the collection. Cathy Laird indicated she would ask the Collection Development Manager.

Citizens’ Comment

- None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 2 p.m., at the Central Library Business Incubator.

Adjourn

Chairperson Wick motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was accepted by Patsy Ugarte and seconded by Artis Wick. The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.