



Manatee Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Palmetto Meeting Room, 9 a.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Marion Duncan
Patsy Ugarte
Lyn Begraft
Christine Callahan
Jenny Daugherty
Jim Russell
Commissioner Amanda Ballard

Unable to Attend:

Tammy Parrott

Guests:

Mall Chaney
Mary Foreman
Elizabeth Thompson
Jan Bocchino
Cindy Spray
Cecile Moseley
Deanna Brinkley
Chelsea Baker

Call to Order

9:00 a.m. by Chairman Marion Duncan. Marion took attendance and read the mission statement.

Approval of Minutes

Marion inquired if everyone reviewed the minutes of September 20, 2023. No corrections were made. Christine made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted, and Jim seconded. All were in favor; the motion carried. Therefore, Marion announced the minutes were approved.

Library Services Updates & Information

- Lyn advised that today at 1pm she would be at Lakewood Ranch with the Manager and staff for the punch list walkthrough. The books that have been ordered will be delivered on Halloween. We expect to see the opening date very soon, staff will be in the branch by the end of the month.
- Lyn advised we have some internal moves with staff, the Island Manager has been selected and will be announced soon. Some other small positions are open as well.
- Lyn advised everyone that Tammy will not be attending today, she is at Leadership Manatee.
 - Patsy stated that this is a great opportunity for her to meet everyone in the community.
- Lyn advised that business is going well, we are circulating well and are seeing some changes now that summer is over.
- Lyn stated we have one item that is time sensitive, the Annual Plan of Service. Tammy needs this to submit our State Aid.

New Business

- Annual Plan of Service: Lyn asked everyone if they had any questions over the document.
 - Patsy advised that there was one thing on the document, RFID spelling needs to be corrected.
- Approval of Ordinance: Lyn stated that on Oct 10, 2023, the BoCC approved the Ordinance for the changes to the Library Board. We do have openings coming up with terms ending, we have reached out to them. Brooke will work on coordinating letters to the Cities for these individuals. The next step is that the Ordinance goes to the State for approval, then it comes back, Brooke sends out the letters and we will begin posting the openings. The openings will be very specific to the Ordinance. After this has happened, the BoCC will need to approve our applicants and we will have our first meeting in February. After all of this has been completed, we will have a very large training over all thing's library.

Old Business

- Bookmobile: Lyn advised Charity Lees was just in Hershey, PA at a conference learning all about bookmobiles. We are hoping to have start up plans soon, the project will take a year to a year and a half.
- Picture Book Reorganization: Lyn stated that Lakewood Ranch is starting with this now. Once we pilot this at Lakewood Ranch, we will start rolling this out.
- User Types / Material Types: Lyn advised we are beginning work on this. The ILS is only as good as what you put into it. This needs work and a lot of cleanup.
- Discovery Layer: Lyn advised this is a wonderful attribute to the ILS and a part of the Annual Plan of Service.
- Circulation Policy: Lyn asked everyone if they have any questions after having time to look at it. We hope to have this approved today.
 - Patsy stated that this was well done and thanked Chelsea for her hard work on this.

- Brooke provided the visitors copies of the Circulation Policy, Lyn did advise that this is a draft and has not been approved yet.
- Christine asked if there is a budget for the homebound delivery program.
 - Lyn advised yes; Tammy has been working on assigning budgets.
- Christine asked what happens when the need exceeds the budget.
 - Lyn stated she believes that if there are funds available in other lines, it may go there.
- Guest asked about children under the age of 18, will parents need to sign for any type of library card. Her concern is for children that do not have transportation to the library. She provided some examples of books that they would not have access to now.
 - Chelsea advised that all cards except All Access Pass will need signature, the All Access Pass will automatically go to the parents' choice.
 - Jenny asked if this is just the student cards.
 - Chelsea went over the default resident card and also the All Access Pass defaulting to the parents' choice card by age. Chelsea also went over the eBook access they will have with the parents' choice card.
 - Guest asked if we could rethink the parents' choice, the children that need it the most will not have a ride to obtain it. Children up to 12 make sense, but secondary school will be affected.
 - Guest asked if we have considered other eBook resources that are only for children.
 - Lyn advised that we have been speaking about this. We do have access to Sora through overdrive but could see more options coming.
 - Guest stated that the Department of Education comes out with a reading list, almost half of this list would not be accessible with the changes.
- Christine asked about Back to School night, can the library participate for changes to the access card.
 - Lyn stated we would love to be a part of them, we have expanded our Outreach Dept.
 - Jenny stated that she doesn't think it will work, if parents will not bring children into the library, they most likely will not be attending the Back to School nights.
 - Chelsea stated that every policy change we make is in response to what we are hearing from the community. In three years, we will review this policy again and may have changes at that time after hearing community feedback.

Action Items

- Circulation Policy: Christine made the motion to approve the policy as presented, and Jim seconded. All were in favor; the motion passed.
- Annual Plan of Service: Patsy made the motion to approve the Plan of Service with the spelling correction to RFID, Christine seconded. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Public Comment

- Guest stated she is deeply concerned about some books that children are being exposed to. Guest had reconsideration forms completed for Brooke with examples, and maps of predators currently living in the vicinity of the libraries (Palmetto and Central). Guest had a picture book that she is concerned with, we currently have in our library in the children's area. Guest thanked everyone for listening and being aware.
 - Lyn thanked the guest for being here today and expressing her concerns.
 - Jenny asked what we can do about this.
 - Lyn stated that this sounds like two issues, some of them are being addressed in the circulation policy. We have an unattended children policy currently, so children are not just running around the library. If parents are concerned about what their children are reading at the library, they need to be present. Lyn stated that there are pedophiles in our community, we do not know if/when they are in our libraries, but our staff are trained for these situations if they come up. We have officers onsite at two of our locations that will be notified immediately. We try our best to be aware of what is going on.
 - Lyn stated that the reconsideration forms will be sent to Tammy Parrot for review.
 - Commissioner Ballard asked if we have gone over the new card levels.
 - Everyone advised yes, Jenny stated that the problem is that the passes do not solve this, and there is still garbage in the library.
 - Commissioner Ballard agreed that the passes do not solve the issue. At a certain point we have to look at case law that is out there and freedom of speech, are we getting rid of things that have literary value.
- Guest asked if we have pornographic magazines in the library.
 - Lyn advised no.
 - Guest asked what the difference of a pornographic magazine and the images in these books.
 - Another Guest answered minors, the examples involve minors.
- Guest stated she is concerned about lack of concern, these books are designed and marketed towards a specific demographic, kids. If these books had pictures of adult things instead of animated a child may not pick it up.
 - Commissioner Ballard stated that some of the illustrated books in the YA section are concerning.
 - Guest went over one of the books she brought in and gave an example of what was in it.
 - Guest asked what section this book is in.
 - Guest advised it was in adult, but a child 12 years or older can come in on their own.
- Lyn stated that Tammy will review these and requested copies of everything brought forward today.
- Guest stated that times have changed. The migration of these books that have gotten into the libraries and in schools. Manatee County Libraries need to take a stand and be an example, set the parameters of what is acceptable. The school district has gone through the process and set policies; she suggests that the library look at the school's policy.
- Guest stated that teens are texting other kids to check out a book that is inappropriate.
- Patsy verified the process is for a reconsideration form.

- Lyn advised there is information in the Collection Development Policy that was approved last year and is available online for everyone.
- Guest asked if there is a way to obtain copies of books and classify some copies as YA and some Adult.
 - Lyn advised yes, with collection codes but some online resources do not allow filtering.
- Commissioner Ballard went over the expansion of the Library Advisory Board.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Marion Duncan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.