

**Library Advisory**  
**Board Meeting**  
**November 27, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Ron Becker, Nancy Cote, Nicholas Pacini, Marcia Milhall, Lewis Curtwright (by telephone), Renee Tyner, Jayne Brewin and Andi Figart.

- I. Call to Order:** 9:35 a.m. by Ron Becker. A quorum was met.
- II. Minutes:** The October minutes were unanimously accepted
- III. Public Comment:** None
- IV. Officer/Committee Reports:**

**Pasco County Library Advisory Board & Library Cooperative (Ron Becker)**

- The Pasco County Library System will not meet again until January 2024. Due to the political climate, the Library System will not attend Legislative Days in January 2024.

**The Friends of the New Port Richey Library (Nancy Cote)**

- Recent events include the Children’s Halloween Parade, a successful Rummage Sale in cooperation with the West Pasco Historical Society and the West Pasco Art Guild, and the Harbors Market. A volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held on December 6. Major donations were received from the Gulf Harbors Civic Association and the Community Service Council of West Pasco. Bonnie Martin (who has been researching the history of the NPR Library) noted that our library was a charter member of the Florida Library Association, established in 1919.

**Library Director’s Update (Andi Figart)**

- The library staff salary study was completed, resulting in many staff compensation increases.
- Two new full-time positions were approved by City Administration and City Council: City Manager Debbie Manns, Community and Outreach Coordinator and Grant Specialist.
- The Library Director noted that a new bi-lingual story time will be added in January 2024.
- The Library Director announced that the new video featuring Florida State Representative Brad Yeager, coordinated by Library Advisory Board member Nicholas Pacini and Pier 19, was shared on social media.
- The Library Director stated that the office of Representative Brad Yeager requested an appropriation request for the mobile Library branch. After receiving approval from City Administration, the Director submitted the appropriation forms. The Friends of the NPR Library were listed to match the requested funds. The request will be forwarded to the Committee Chairman and then to the Florida House and Senate before finally going before the Governor for final approval. The Governor will sign or veto any requests by July 1. To support and facilitate approval of this appropriation request, the LAB can communicate with our elected officials via letters/emails/in-person meetings.

**V. Continuing Business:**

- Nicholas Pacini presented the social media monthly October report noting that Facebook's reach doubled last year.
- McKenna (an active 2<sup>nd</sup> grader volunteer) and her mentor and mother are working to support the newest Little Free Library with a children's book drive. A photo shoot planned at the NPR Recreation and Aquatic Center when it is installed.

**VI. New Business:**

- Library Director Andi Figart asked us to review the FLA 2024 Legislative Platform and Priorities, the FLA Statement on FLA-ALA Relationship and the Division Update from State Librarian Amy Johnson and the Division of Library and Information Services (attached). She also called attention to the recent news article about the surrounding Public Library Systems, which are considering whether to drop their memberships in both groups. There is much discussion regarding criticism of the American Library Association and the Florida Library Association from certain groups. There is also much discussion regarding criticism towards the Governor for directing Florida's Dept of State: Division of Library and Information Services to not allocate grant funding for any initiative that is connected to or pays for ALA/FLA-related initiatives.

She asked us to be aware of other discussions in our county and surrounding counties and for us to be strong advocates for our entire community.

While our library can still apply for DOS:DLIS Operational grants, operational grant funds received from the DOS:DLIS cannot be used to pay for training, programs, or equipment, etc. created by the American Library Association or its affiliates. The NPR Public Library is not an organizational member of either. The library director showed a video of state librarian Amy Johnson speaking about this issue, which may be viewed on the Division of Library Information Services YouTube Channel. Nicolas Pacini and Lewis Curtwright plan to attend the FLA Legislative Days meeting January 23-24 to advocate for Florida Libraries—please contact Nicolas about any topics that you wish presented.

**VII. Communications:**

- The next meeting will be on January 22, 2024, at 9:30 am at the library.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nancy M. Cote*

Nancy M. Cote, Secretary