

**Library Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 26, 2024

**In Attendance:** Ron Becker, Nancy Cote, Nicholas Pacini, Lewis Curtwright (by telephone), Renee Tyner, Jayne Brewin, Joyce Haasnoot, Andi Figart, and Joan Nelson Hook. Marci Mihall was absent.

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:35 a.m. by Ron Becker. A quorum was met.
- II. **Minutes:** The January 2023 minutes were unanimously accepted. One correction was made to the spelling of Lewis Curtwright's name in the Continuing Business section.
- III. **Public Comment:** None
- IV. **Officer/Committee Reports:**
  - Pasco County Library Advisory Board & Library Cooperative (Ron Becker)
    - Nicholas Pacini was at the last meeting to review his visit to Library Legislative Days in Tallahassee in January.
    - Regency Park branch will be opening at the end of March.
    - On April 12 there is a groundbreaking for a Wesley Chapel branch. Ron invited anyone who would like to attend to let him know.
  - The Friends of the New Port Richey Library (Nancy Cote)
    - Friends are looking for additional ways to raise funds for the mobile library branch. The goal is \$50,000, and as of now, they are at about \$40,000.
    - Jayne Brewin suggested hosting a table at the next Main Street Wine Walk.
  - Library Director's Update (Andi Figart)
    - Library Director Figart updated the board on the appropriations request for book mobile funding that Representative Yeager submitted. It has passed the Senate and is currently not supported by the House. Representative Yeager's aide, Trotter Deuce, said that even if full funding is not approved, there is a chance that it could be partially funded. If approved in both the House and Senate, it will go to the Governor for final approval. We can expect an answer sometime around July 2024.
    - The library will request funding for the mobile library branch in the FY 24/25 budget requests. If approved, these requests will go before the City Council in August and September. Maintenance costs were compiled during the 23/24 FY and those numbers will be included in the budget request.
- V. **Continuing Business:**
  - The newest Little Free Library was installed at the New Port Richey Aquatic Center. Nick Pacini will monitor the library. Nick suggested creating a joint social media post on the Parks & Rec page and our social media page showing an individual taking a book from the newest Little Free Library.
  - Nicholas Pacini recapped the trip to Library Legislative Days in Tallahassee. The first night, Nick met and talked with Doug Crane, FLA President. The next morning, Nick and Lewis met with Danny Burgess, who explained some differences between FLA and ALA. Representative Burgess is an active patron of the Zephyrhills Library.

- Nicholas Pacini also met with Jaden Cocuzza, aide for Representative Kevin Steele, and discussed various programs that the library hosts, how programs are determined, as well as the procedure the public must follow to reserve space in the Library for their events and programs. Nicholas also explained that the New Port Richey Public Library is not a part of the Pasco County Library System, although, as expected, their missions are similar.
- Nicholas also met with Senator Hooper, the chair of the committee that votes on library funding. FLA Advocacy representative Winona Paterson was also in attendance. They reviewed funding requests for libraries.
- The library statistics were discussed. It included normal checkouts through a staff member, self-checkouts at the MeeScan machines, and checkout through the phone application. Director Figart explained that “in the library” means items used while in the library and not checked out. Bulk items are from the seed library. Director Figart further explained passive programs. They are self-run programs, such as take-and-makes, the spice-of-the-month club, and the community puzzle. It is any program that the public can participate in without the assistance of staff.

#### **VI. New Business:**

- Ron Becker suggested a book appraisal program, similar to the What's it Worth program. Dan Callaghan with Lighthouse Books, located in Dade City, is a rare book dealer who is a knowledgeable book appraiser who could be utilized for the event.
- Ron Becker suggested comparing library door statistics and usage statistics in a few months, after the Regency Park branch has opened.
- Youth Librarian, Jessica Meredith, briefly discussed her upcoming science fair for the homeschool program and asked for volunteers to judge. Bonnie Martin will judge the March 25<sup>th</sup> fair.
- Director Figart introduced Conversation Café as a new agenda item at meetings. She will present a question to the board, and they will answer. Conversation Café can be used to communicate ideas and ask questions, and it does not have to be related to topics from the meeting.

#### **VII. Communications:**

- The next meeting will be March 25, 2024, at 9:30 am at the library.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lewis Curtwright*

Lewis Curtwright, Secretary