

Library Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025

In Attendance: Ron Becker, Nancy Cote, Nicholas Pacini, Marci Mihall, Bonnie Martin, Lewis Curtwright, City Liaison Andi Figart, Library Administrative Assistant Joyce Haasnoot, Renee Tyner. Joan Hook and Jayne Brewin were absent.

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:33 a.m. by Ron Becker. A quorum was met.
- II. **Minutes:** The November 2024 minutes were unanimously accepted. Bonnie Martin made a motion to approve, Renee Tyner seconded.
- III. **Public Comment:** None
- IV. **Officer/Committee Reports:**
 - Pasco County Library Advisory Board & Library Cooperative (Ron Becker)
 - Chairman Becker updated the Board on the January meeting. He reviewed the agenda item in regards to removal of books from the Pasco Library circulation. Eight members of the public showed up in support of keeping books in the library. Chairman Becker shared a news article discussing the meeting. Nick Pacini shared some case examples of successful cases against book removal and discussion topics for keeping books on the shelves if the topic is ever brought up within the New Port Richey Library.
 - The Friends of the New Port Richey Library (Nancy Cote)
 - Nancy updated the Board on Friends' fundraising efforts. She reviewed how much they earned and will be hosting a luncheon on April 26th at the Hacienda Hotel, tickets will be \$50.
 - Library Director's Update (Andrea Figart)
 - Director Figart provided the Board with updates on staffing, circulation statistics, door traffic and programming attendance, as well as various library programs planned for 2025. She briefly discussed funding from the Friends of the Library Organization and City Council, as recommended by the Cultural Arts Committee, that the library recently received for the Riverside Concert Series. The LSTA grant that was applied for in November, which will assist in funding the purchase of technology for the mobile library branch, is under review by the State and we hope to have an answer in February.
- V. **Continuing Business:**
 - The Little Free Libraries are still doing well and books are always needed. The Little Free Libraries have been vandalized lately in several parks. It was suggested to use plexi-glass when constructing the library doors instead of glass to reduce the risk of breakage.
 - Quarterly statistics from October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 were reviewed. Door counts, database usage, circulation, and social media interactions were discussed.

VI. New Business:

- Stephanie Jones, Systems & Services Librarian, presented an overview of Hoopla, one of the library's digital databases. Hoopla provides free access to movies, e-books, magazines, manga, and audiobooks for download with a library card. Due to the high usage rate by our patrons, Hoopla saves the library money by reducing the need to purchase physical materials.
- Matthew Ortman, Outreach & Community Specialist, provided an overview of the new library website. Accessible via the old URL, nprlibrary.org, or through a direct link on the city website at cityofnewportrichey.org, the new website offers a more streamlined experience and easier to find information. Key library services, such as room rentals, event calendar, and the catalog, are all accessible from the homepage.
- Library Legislative Day is planned for March 11th in Tallahassee. The library would like to have representatives attend on our behalf.
 - Director Figart will submit a travel approval request for mileage, meals, and lodging for L.A.B. member attendance at the conference and will confirm if it has been approved at the next meeting.
 - Nick Pacini will attempt to arrange meetings with Representative Brad Yeager, Senator Danny Burgess, Senator Ed Hooper, and other elected officials.
 - We will review legislative priorities and concentrate on initiatives that will benefit the community which is served by the New Port Richey Public Library. The board will continue working to identify discussion topics that highlight our current efforts to ensure more meaningful interactions with the representatives.

VII. Communications:

- The next meeting will be February 24th, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the library.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.