

Library Advisory Board **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 24, 2025

In Attendance: Ron Becker, Nancy Cote, Nicholas Pacini, Marci Mihall, Joan Hook, City Liaison Andi Figart, Library Administrative Assistant Joyce Haasnoot, Renee Tyner, guest Daisy Thomas. Lewis Curtwright attended via Teams.

- I. **Call to order:** 9:34 a.m. by Ron Becker. A quorum was present.

- II. **Minutes:** The February 2025 minutes were unanimously accepted with one correction: the attendance was corrected to reflect that Lewis Curtwright was absent at the February 24th meeting. Nick Pacini made a motion to approve, and Renee Tyner seconded it.

- III. **Public Comment:** No one came forward. Nick Pacini, Vice Chair of the Library Advisory Board, reviewed the board's attendance requirements. He clarified that only in-person attendance is considered for official purposes. Remote participation does not count toward attendance and does not allow members to vote. Members are expected to attend meetings in person monthly, except in cases of extenuating circumstances, to comply with statutory requirements for municipal board and committee members.

- IV. **Officer/Committee Reports:**
 - Pasco County Library Advisory Board & Library Cooperative (Ron Becker)
 - Chairman Becker updated the Board on the February meeting. As of March 25th, 2025, Pasco Libraries will provide a juvenile library card that allows a parent to place restrictions on which books a child can check out. If a book is removed from circulation in the youth section, it will be transferred to the adult section but will still remain in circulation.
 - The Friends of the New Port Richey Library (Nick Pacini)
 - Nick updated the Board on F.O.L.'s fundraising efforts. They will host a luncheon in April and a rummage sale in May.
 - Library Director's Update (Andrea Figart)
 - The LSTA grant application submitted in November to support the purchase of technology for the mobile library branch was awarded by the LSTA committee. However, an Executive Order issued by President Trump has restricted funding for museums and libraries, placing the grant funding on hold pending further clarification.
 - The order for the bookmobile van has been placed with Duval Ford.
 - The library was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Florida Humanities Council to purchase youth books for use in the library book mobile.
 - Representative Brad Yeager has re-submitted the \$50,000 appropriations request to be included in the State's FY25-26 budget to help fund the bookmobile and necessary technology upgrades. Although the request placed during the last fiscal year for inclusion in the FY 24-25 budget successfully passed both houses, it was ultimately excluded from the final FY24-25 Florida budget.

V. New Business:

- The recent Executive Order by the White House dated March 14, 2025, titled “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy,” was reviewed. The order instructs government staff to reduce the performance and presence of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, except where statutorily required. LSTA grants and state aid could be affected by this order.
 - Ron Becker will lead a letter-writing campaign to urge our local representatives to maintain funding for libraries. Nick Pacini volunteered to assist and suggested involving the Friends of the Library in this effort.
- The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025 was discussed. The board will meet on June 9th instead of the May 28th meeting, as it falls on Memorial Day. The board will not meet in June (other than the 9th), July, or August unless a vote or other emergency matters arise.

VI. Continuing Business:

- Nick Pacini provided an update on FLA Legislative Days. He met with aides from Senator Danny Burgess’s and Senator Ed Hooper’s offices, emphasizing the critical need for library funding. During his meeting with Senator Hooper’s aide, he discussed the possibility of securing support for library-based homeless programs. While funding is currently allocated for homeless services through qualified organizations, the aide was uncertain whether libraries are included on that list and would look into the matter further.
- Statistics for February 2025 were reviewed. Circulation and foot traffic numbers continue to show steady and increasing trends.

VII. Communications:

- The next meeting will be April 28th, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the library.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.