

Library Advisory Board Meeting February 22, 2021

In Attendance: Marci Mihall, Peter Segall, Jayne Brewin, Bonnie Martin, Ron Becker, Mark Vandebroek, Stephanie Jones (sitting in for Andrea Figart)

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:30 a.m. by Marci Mihall (sitting in for Joan Hook)
- II. **Minutes:** The January 2021 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- III. **Public Comment:** None
- IV. **New Business:**
 1. **Renovation Update** – No new changes have occurred since last month. Major interior work is projected to begin in March.
 2. **Advocacy** - Stephanie gave an overview of this year’s need for adequately funding Florida libraries. She also shared the Florida Library Assoc.’s legislative platform. Legislators are in their home districts this week and Senator Simpson is working on the State budget. Letters of advocacy for appropriate levels of State and Federal funding is imminent. The FOL has developed an appeal letter they will send to Senators and Representatives. A copy was provided for LAB member use. LAB members verbalized their intent to follow-through with letters and emails.
 3. **Time Capsule** - Marci provided thorough information on various aspects of a time capsule’s location, containers and projected contents. The information helps the LAB plan for the installation of a capsule during upcoming library renovations.
 4. **Library Director’s Update:**
 - A. **Construction Grant** – The NPR Library has again applied for Florida’s Library Construction Grant. This is our 3rd year applying and we successfully moved up from 36th to 11th on the list of potential grant recipients.
 - B. **High School Graduation Program** – Since NPR high school graduation rates are lower than State of Fl. recommended levels, the Library hopes the State will again fund the Library’s alternative high school diploma program. It was very successful in the past and helps improve our community.
 - C. **Proclamation** - March 2nd the City Council will present a “Read Across America” proclamation. The same evening, as a result of the collaboration between the City, the LAB, and the FOL, the FOL will present the City with a “year-in-pictures” book which highlights the New Port Richey Public Library’s centennial year celebratory activities. All LAB were encouraged to attend that evening for both City Council items.
 - D. **Library Fees** - The “Show Some Love” program is running again this month. The program encourages donors to pay off children and teen library fines so they can use their cards again. The program has been successful in past years and many fees have been paid off this month. LAB were encouraged to help pay down the fines.

E. Tasty Tuesday and Second Helping Saturdays - There has been a dramatic increase in both vendors and shoppers this year. This has led to an increase in people patronizing the library. The EBT and SNAP payment program is funded by a USDA grant and was recently upgraded.

F. Advocacy Video - The Florida Library Assoc. (F.L.A) is developing a video which will be shown to State Legislators. The video is an advocacy tool to increase our Florida leadership's awareness of libraries and promote adequate library funding. The NPR library staff interviewed several patrons for the video. They were asked "What Do You Love About the Library?" Answers were very positive and enlightening. The results will be sent to the F.L.A.

G. Staff - Evan Murlock, a new Library Information Specialist was recently hired. She is a student of Library Information Sciences at USF.

H. Small Business - The Library has developed a Small Business flyer to use at pro-Pasco events. The flyer explains the small business resources available from our Library.

I. New LAB Member - Richard Frederickson applied to be on the LAB as a city representative. He was not in attendance today, and is a former university librarian. He will be contacted again re: our next meeting.

J. Pasco Cooperative Meeting – Ron reported on the last cooperative meeting. The importance of advocacy for State funding was highlighted. Additionally, the new Trinity area Pasco County Library involves a large, collaborative development. It is inclusive of a sports complex, a school, a County library, and a multi-use facility. This topic led to LAB discussion about the educational need of our City residents and the potential benefits of an accessible and multi-agency organizational system which would include the library's resources for our youth's educational enrichment.

V. Next Meeting: March 22, 2021 – 9:30a.m. at the Library

VI. Adjourn: By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie M. Martin

Bonnie M. Martin, Secretary