

## **Library Advisory Board Meeting March 22, 2021**

**In Attendance:** Marci Mihall, Peter Segall, Jayne Brewin, Bonnie Martin, Ron Becker, Mark Vandebroek, Andrea Figart, Joan Hook

**Guest:** The LAB was delighted to see Councilman Mike Peters attend the meeting and take an interest in this advisory board.

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:30 am. by Chairwoman Joan Hook
- II. **Minutes:** The February 2021 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- III. **Public Comment:** None; however, it was noted that Richard Frederickson applied for the LAB as a city representative but has not attended last month's or this month's meetings.
- IV. **New Business:**
  1. **Proclamation** - The "Read Across America" proclamation was read by Mayor Rob Marlowe. The City Council proclaimed March as New Port Richey's Read Across America month.
  2. **FOL 'Bookish Tea Party'** - LAB members were provided with information about the tea party fundraiser. It is being held at the White Heron on Sunday, 4/25, and designed to support the purchase of two library book benches.
  3. **Renovation Update** – The City Council approved the construction funding cap. The specifics of the interior design and FF&E are current discussion points. A construction start date will be set after meetings this week. The second floor will be the starting point of the renovations. It was also noted that the Library's list of desired FF&E would need to be reworked to meet budgetary constraints. Some equipment and furnishings will not be replaced. Other items will be donated or re-purposed. Donations of some furnishings have already been made to a smaller Polk County Library. The LAB suggested that unwanted items be sold to help the Library budget. Andi will discuss this with the City Manager and City Attorney.
  4. **Advocacy** - This is *Library Advocacy Week*. The NPR Public Library is now 11<sup>th</sup> on the State's list for a construction grant. Our City Manager wrote a letter of support to State Rep. Amber Mariano and other elected officials on behalf of our city and Library. The LAB members sent appeal letters to our State legislators asking that they fund the construction grants, the local library co-operatives, and the library online high school degree programs. This week is one of the last opportunities to make additional appeals to our senators and representatives. The Florida Library Assoc. (FLA) is developing a video which will be shown to State Legislators. Our Library contributed testimonials, and one of our entries was selected. Although incorrectly attributed to Pasco County, our library patron's heartfelt testimonial about the value of the Library came across clearly. Andi provided the video link to LAB members.
  5. **Pasco Co-op Update** - Advocacy was an important item at the Co-op meeting. Ron noted that we are the only west coast of Florida library on the construction grant list. The majority requesting funds are from the southeast and Miami area.
  6. **Update Ordinance** - The City of NPR ordinance related to the LAB and the Library was distributed. This month, it will be reviewed by the LAB, with particular attention given to the fees and fines. It was suggested that there be differing fees for city patrons vs. county patrons who use our Library.

The fees were discussed, and it was noted that our goal is to make it easy for patrons to use and return materials.

7. **Time Capsule** - Plans remain intact to install a time capsule during remodeling. The size of the capsule is needed before we can progress. Andi will discuss this with the architects this week.
8. **Library Director's Report** -
  - The *Loquat Festival* was canceled last year. This year loquat celebrations are being held in various venues in the city. This week Tasty Tuesday will have four vendors providing loquat items.
  - *Tasty Tuesday* is doing exceptionally well this year. EBT and SNAP funds will be doubled until June. Consideration is being given to space issues as Tasty Tuesday continues to grow. Expansion of hours will also be discussed. Second Helping Saturdays has not been well attended and ends in April for this season.
  - The presentation "*Vanishing Florida*" will be held this week in City Council Chambers. All seats were taken within two days of announcing the program.
  - *Show Some Love* was a success again this year. Generous donors paid off approximately \$400 of outstanding youth fines. Those youth are now able to use their library cards again.
  - *Youth Services*: Rhymes to Readers is coming back to Council Chambers, and Yoga for Kids will be held at Peace Hall. A digital component to the summer reading program began in January. There are three programs, and a toddler already met the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter benchmark towards the '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge. 'Who Dis' is the program for teens and involves reading biographies. The adult program is 'Reading Through the Decades.'
  - Some patrons come into the Library to take online tests and gain certificates. A patron recently received her driver's license after assistance from our Library. She gratefully brought in Visa cards as gifts for the staff. Since City policies prohibit staff from receiving patron gifts, discussion ensued re: the appropriate response to the donor and how she could appropriately show her gratitude. A motion was made and passed: *A letter will be written to the giver of the 4 Visa cards and redirect her to submit her gift to the Friends of the Library, a gift for all the staff, or designated to be used for a library upgrade.*
    - Ron attended the Pasco County Food Policy Council regarding Tasty Tuesday. He is now an alternate on the Council.
    - Adjustment to the City pay scale was approved at the last City Council meeting. As a result, six library staff have already received pay increases.

## V. Other:

1. **Councilman Peters** discussed his advocacy for City Council Advisory Boards and suggested looking at meeting times more feasible for residents.

2. **Next Meeting:** Monday, April 26, 2021, in City Council Chambers.

**VI. Adjourn:** By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonnie*

Bonnie M. Martin, Secretary