



LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
February 20, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora, FL 32757

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Betsy Dokken, Member, Eustis Memorial Library
Tom Harris, Member, Fruitland Park Library
Robert Glockler, Member, Leesburg Public Library
Larry Ross, Member, Tavares Public Library
Mary Nichols, Member, Umatilla Public Library
Catherine Gillespie, Member, W.T. Bland Public Library
Tom Vail, Member, District 1
Juana Delacruz, Member, District 2
John Nystrom, Member, District 4

REPRESENTATIVE NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Deborah Weinert, Alternate, Tavares Public Library
Beth Sharpe, Alternate, W.T. Bland Public Library

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Timothy Morris, BCC Commissioner, District 5 and Library Liaison
George Taylor, Director, Office of Library Services
Lindsay Platt, Associate Director, Office of Library Services
Cathy Lunday, Library Director, W.T. Bland Public Library
Amy Stultz, Library Director, Umatilla Public Library
Josie Dix, Library Manager, Minneola Schoolhouse Library
Rebecca Campbell, Library Director, Tavares Public Library
Dusty Matthews, Library Director, Leesburg Public Library
Ann Ivey, Library Director, Eustis Memorial Library
Kymberlee Pearson, Office Associate V, Recording Secretary, Office of Library Services

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Robert Ballenger, Alternate, Fruitland Park Library
Debra Wanza Dabney, Alternate, Leesburg Public Library
Michael Ertel, Member, Marianne Beck Memorial Library
Leslie Temmen, Member, Helen Lehmann Memorial Library
Robert Miller, Alternate, Umatilla Public Library
Dencov Bryant, Member, District 5

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of voting board members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Linda Voigt, Minneola Resident
Erin Creel, City Archivist, Mount Dora

NOTICE OF MEETING – PROOF OF PUBLICATION:

Proof of publication was presented.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

NONE.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2024 LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Dokken asked for any questions or discussions on the minutes of the October 17, 2024 meeting. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Mary Nichols moved to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2024 meeting. Robert Glockler seconded; the motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.**

CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD:

NONE.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS'S REPORT:

Commissioner Morris mentioned that it is budget season and he is working with Director Taylor to make sure we have everything included and he is learning about the Library System. Attended the Astor Branch Library ribbon cutting. He shared that he is available by email and phone and is in the office on Tuesdays if anyone would like to contact him.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Dokken recently read that reading has decreased steadily over the past two years due to social media and would like for everyone to follow the Lake County Library System on Facebook. She also follows the Eustis Memorial Library and that there is so much great programming.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary position vacancy: John Nystrom volunteered for the position. **Bob Glockler made the motion to accept and approve. Tom Harris seconded. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, OFFICE OF LIBRARY SERVICES:

December

- Program Attendance saw a 24.88% increase from November
- 80 more rewards were earned in Beanstack compared to November

- The first Wicked movie was a box office smash and was also one of the most searched books for December

Here are some highlights from January:

- We saw a 33.73% increase in Minutes Read on Beanstack
- We had an 11.59% increase in Circulation from the previous month
- And we saw a 78.25% increase in New Cardholders from December
- Astor Branch Library Ribbon-Cutting on Wednesday, January 29, 2025
 - Over 115 residents in attendance
 - First Lake County library with a drive-thru
 - Community Services Room—small office for local agencies to meet with clients, like Veterans Services, Housing and Community Services, Community Legal Services, and more
 - 42% increase in size from the former Astor Library building
 - Increased parking from 9 spaces to 53 for residents to use for the library and the park
 - Educational native plant garden to be built on the terrace side of the library in cooperation with Keep Lake Beautiful and Parks, Trails, and Water Resources
- East Lake Modular
 - Construction on the modular should start soon and will take about three months
 - Will be able to offer full services, computers, programming, and study space
 - In design phase for the permanent East Lake Library, with a 4–5-year timeline
- Workforce Development and Training Center at Cagan Crossings will be entering design phase soon, with project completion in two years
 - Partnering with Lake-Sumter State College and Lake Technical College
- Lake Libraries Week April 6 -April 12, 2025: Communications will create social media posts
- Summer Reading Program: June & July
 - Lack of State support
 - Lake County Communications designed the logo and created a marketing guide
 - The Office of Library Services will support all 16 locations with the following:
 - Bookmarks
 - Reading logs
 - Posters
 - Tote bags
 - Custom design for the Summer Reading Program
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten: This will be a countywide program to try to get more children to read before they start kindergarten.

Library Updates

Lady Lake Public Library: Renovations are well underway! All framing and drywall are complete, and painting began this week. The ceiling installation is also in progress. On February 19, 2025 they will begin installing the beams for the new addition's roof and flooring. Everything is still on track for an opening at the end of May or early June 2025.

Tavares Public Library: Rebecca Campbell, Library Director shared information on the Florida Book Awards which she was one of three jurors for the Florida Nonfiction category.

The program was established in 2006, is an annual awards program that recognizes, honors and celebrates the literature by Florida authors and books about Florida published in the previous year. With 11 different categories and 2-3 jurors for each group, the Florida Book Awards is the most comprehensive state awards book program in our nation.

The winners were announced on 2/6/2025 and the award ceremony will be held in April 2025 in Tallahassee:

- Bronze Medal: *Tracing Florida's Journeys: Explorers, Travelers, and Landscapes Then and Now* by Leslie Kemp Poole, University Press of Florida, 2024
- Silver Medal: *Tampa Bay: The Story of an Estuary and Its People* by Evan P. Bennett, University Press of Florida, 2024
- Gold Medal: *Florida Springs: From Geography to Politics and Restoration* by Christopher Meindl, University Press of Florida, 2024

Rebecca mentioned a couple of her favorites: *Florida Spectacular Extraordinary Places and Exceptional Lives* by Cathy Salustri and *She Soars: Trailblazing Female Pilots in Florida* by Bridges Delponte. All of the books are available at the Tavares Public Library.

The Florida Book Awards, coordinated by the Florida State University Libraries, is the most comprehensive state book awards program in our nation.

Minneola Schoolhouse Library: Josie Dix, Library Director shared that the new library plans to open June 1, 2025.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Larry Ross mentioned that the Tavares Public Library was awarded the Florida Wildflower Foundation Seeds of Knowledge Library Demonstration Garden Grant. They are one of three libraries in Florida selected to pilot this grant.

John Nystrom made a suggestion to have Board member names listed on the County website. Tom Vail agreed that you should be able to find Board members. Juana Delacruz asked what the intent was for having Board member information available. John replied that someone may like to have an opinion on libraries and it's another avenue for communication. John would prefer that personal information is not listed on the website. Director Taylor recently spoke to the County Attorney's office regarding this since we had a request for our Board member list, and he will look into an official means to make this information available.

John inquired about the digitization program. Director Taylor replied that we had received an LSTA Grant from the State Library and the pandemic slowed it down. We have purchased and installed a server and we are looking into how to incorporate it with some of the cities' archives.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion, Chair Dokken, seeing no opposition, called for an end to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m. The next meeting will be held April 17, 2025 at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library, Howey-in-the-Hills.

Respectfully submitted by Kymberlee Pearson, Recording Secretary.