

Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

November 6th, 2009

Deltona Regional Library

Members:

Claudia Hutchins, At- Large
Vacant, District I
Neil Harrington, District II
Robert Clinton, District III
Chris Hartley, District IV
Sue Lombardi, District V
Rev. Donald Needham, At- Large

Staff:

Lucinda Colee, Library Services Director
Chelsea Harrison, Recorder
Anne Powers, Network Librarian
Suzan Howes, Daytona Beach Regional Librarian
Charlene Weaver, Deputy County Manager
Dave Byron, Community Services Director

Chair, Sue Lombardi called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

All Board members were present.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Claudia Hutchins made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Neil Harrington seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. On page 1, under Election of Officers, change the date of the County Library Advisory Board meeting from November 5th, to November 6th.

Budget:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, explained that there are 8.5 full time vacancies and that she would like the Board’s opinion on budgetary solutions. Charlene Weaver, Deputy County Manager, explained that this is the 4th year with the same amount of revenue but increasing costs. Previous budget reductions have been made without public knowledge; however a 15% property tax drop is a substantial loss for the libraries.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, has requested guidance from the County Council on how to proceed with next year’s budget. If the millage for next year is not increased, then difficult decisions will need to be made. The frozen positions are stressing the system, making them an immediate issue. With the 2.7 million short fall for next year, hiring new staff only to shortly fire them is not the ideal solution.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked Charlene Weaver why the Board was being asked for their opinion after the staff and County Council have been consulted. Charlene Weaver suggested that the County Library Advisory Board conduct another meeting before the County Council meeting on December 10th, 2009.

Charlene Weaver suggested shifting the millage into operating expenses instead of construction. This will hold off the deficit until 2012. The County Council discussed this plan, but did not implement it.

Lucinda Colee, went over the rest of the budget workshop, which included closing the Holly Hill Library, Sarah Cornelia Young Library, and DeLeon Springs Bookmobile location while reducing hours at the John H. Dickerson Heritage Library and the Orange City Library. Lucinda Colee showed the board that these closings would have a minimal impact on library patronage and that it is a reduction in overlapping services. Staff would be transferred from these closed libraries into the vacant positions at the Deltona Regional Library and the Ormond Beach Regional Library. The overall savings of these changes would total \$632,511.00. The alternative that Lucinda Colee offered was to reduce hours at all of the branches.

Sue Lombardi, Chair, suggested another meeting on the east side of the county so that the communities that would be affected would have a forum to voice their ideas and opinions. Neil Harrington, District II,

made the motion and Sue Lombardi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting will be at the City Island Regional Library on December 4th, 2009 at 1:00pm.

Public Participation:

Rose Schumacher, Executive Director of Holly Hill's Chamber of Commerce, felt that the Holly Hill Library should not be closed right before the new building was being planned. She feels that it is the county's duty to take care of the low income area. She also feels that what the Holly Hill residents pay in tax dollars should be more than enough money to support the library branch. She requested a break down of where her tax dollars are being spent.

Jerry Lombardi, President of the Debary Library Association, stated that there would be no quick fixes. He would like to have all the information for all of the branches including the Library Support Center before a decision is made. He then went over the timeline for the Debary Library. He wanted to know if the system was going toward Regional branches only or if they were still protecting the small branches.

Meetings:

It was unanimously decided that the dates for next year's meetings would be: January 8th, March 12th, May 7th, July 9th (if necessary), September 10th, and November 5th. The locations will continue to alternate between the library branches.

Reports:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, announced that the Digibus would be at the City Island Regional Library on December 4th, 2009 from 10am – 4pm.

Lucinda Colee demonstrated how to use a playaway. There are 671 playaways in the system, with 514 different titles.

Lucinda Colee went over the Unique reports and statistics.

Library Day in Tallahassee will be February 16th, 2010. Lucinda Colee is on a wait list for an appointment to apply for State Aid.

Regional Report:

Suzan Howes, Regional Librarian, thanked all participants for coming and offered to give a tour of the new facility after the meeting was adjourned.

Board Discussion:

Sue Lombardi, Chair, announced that they were unable to reach Dr. Henry Martin. She asked Chris Hartley, Secretary, to compose a letter thanking Dr. Martin for his service to the board. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, announced that Dr. Martin resigned from two boards and that his letter of resignation did not address the County Library Advisory Board.

Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items:

The next meeting will be on December 4th, 2009 at the City Island Regional Library starting at 1:00pm.

Adjournment:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsea Harrison