

Minutes of the Volusia County Library Advisory Board Meeting

June 25th, 2010

Library Support Center

Members:

Claudia Hutchins, At-Large
Jean Fletcher, 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

Sue Lombardi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

All Board members were present.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting:

Donald Needham, At-Large, made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Hartley, District IV, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Items:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, informed the board that the meeting room policy has been approved, as presented, by the County Council.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, informed the board that there are 225 regular summer programs and 260 special summer programs planned. Lucinda extended her thanks to the Friends of the Library, whose contributions helped to make many of these programs possible.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, presented the Holly Hill joint participation agreement to the board. This will be presented to the County Council on July 8th, 2010. The initial cost of the new site in Holly Hill is \$124,623.00 for the first year. The City of Holly Hill will not be contributing financially toward the library operations during the first year. There would be a yearly agreement between the County of Volusia and the City of Holly Hill which would be revised annually, beginning after the first year. Nine public access computers will be donated to the city, for which the city will provide public computer access service.

Sue Lombardi, Chair, asked if the computers would be left in the existing building. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that they would be kept in the same building.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, explained that there would be four self-service lending machines, a small children's "read and return" collection based on the honor system, and a small reference collection at the Holly Hill location. A staff member would come everyday to clear the book drop. A step down vehicle from Fleet Management will be used and the library will be responsible for the cost of maintenance on the vehicle and fuel.

Sue Lombardi, Chair, asked if fines would be accrued if they were returned after the book drop had been emptied for the day. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that as a courtesy the items would be back dated when they are checked in in the morning by a staff member.

Donald Needham, At-Large, made a motion to approve the agenda item as presented. Jean Fletcher, District I seconded the motion. The board voted against this motion four to three, with Robert Clinton, District III, Chris Hartley, District IV, Donald Needham, At-Large, and Jean Fletcher, District I voting in opposition to the motion. Sue Lombardi, Chair, Claudia Hutchins, At-Large, and Neil Harrington, District II, voted in favor of the motion.

Donald Needham, At-Large, asked how much the vending machines would cost. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that they cost \$14,000.00 a piece and that the library would be purchasing four of them.

Donald Needham, At-Large, voted in opposition to the agenda item, stating that the reason that he voted to close the Holly Hill Library previously was because there are overlapping services to this area. He feels that the citizens of Holly Hill have already voted with their feet by using the other nearby regional branches and by not volunteering at the Holly Hill Branch. He stated that with the budget concerns and more cutbacks coming next year that this is an improper use of County funds. However, if the City of Holly Hill is willing to purchase the machines while the library services them, then he would vote in favor of the agenda item. He feels that if Holly Hill does not agree to purchase the machines, then they are telling the County that they do not need the library in their community.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that the Holly Hill Branch does have volunteers; it is just a very small group.

Chris Hartley, District IV, asked how much this site will cost. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that for the first year it will cost approximately \$125,000.00 and for the following years it would cost \$60,000.00. These figures include staff time. Chris Hartley asked what would happen if the Holly Hill site did not work out. Lucinda Colee responded that we would use the machines for after hour access at other branches, but clarified that the library is not looking to cut any hours.

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, clarified that even though the City of Holly Hill would not be making a financial contribution, they would be assuming the staffing, maintenance, utilities, and computer access for the building. Chris Hartley, District IV, responded that during the town hall meeting, Mayor Via promised actual funds for the operating cost. He is concerned that the City of Holly Hill is doing only the minimum of what they have to, while the library system is still going to be sending a staff member down daily in addition to funding the partner location.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked whether or not the board advised Lucinda on the Holly Hill site. He was concerned about the board being asked to approve something when all of the final negotiations were complete. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that during the last meeting the board discussed what the County was proposing. Donald Needham, At-Large, replied that he felt similar to Neil in the regards that the discussion was ongoing and that options like leasing the machines were still being researched. He did not realize that the negotiations were being finalized.

Sue Lombardi, Chair, asked who took part in the negotiations. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that she, Dave Byron, Dr. Wingo, Charlene Weaver, and Jim Dinneen were part of the discussions.

Donald Needham, At-Large, announced to the board that he sits on another advisory board and that the City of Holly Hill stepped up and contributed money for that cause. He feels that because they are not doing the same thing here, that they are labeling the partner location as a low priority. He feels that in order for the city to be partners with the County, they have to buy the four vending machines. Lucinda

Colee, Library Director, responded that the County would like to own the machines so that they could be moved if the location does not work out.

Claudia Hutchins, At-Large, stated that the staff member would only be gone an hour a day. Donald Needham, At-Large, responded that he still does not think that there is a place for these machines in this city. Chris Hartley, District IV, asked what the criteria would be for moving the machines. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that it would be based on usage.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked if libraries are now going to be closed based on usage. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, stated there are many different factors, including use, computer statistics, overlapping use, and geographic location are considered when making these difficult decisions. Neil Harrington, District II, responded that he would like some information on how other counties use these small, rural libraries.

Donald Needham, At-Large, made a motion to approve the agenda with the caveat of the City of Holly Hill buying and owning the machines. Sue Lombardi, Chair, responded that then the County no longer has any rights over the machines because it is Holly Hill's property. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that the County would still have to service the machines. Donald Needham, At-Large, answered that he sees this as a partnership. Chris Hartley, District IV, asked if the City of Holly Hill had to purchase the machines or if they could simply have a more significant contribution.

Donald Needham, At-Large, amended his motion to approve the agenda with the caveat of the City of Holly Hill purchasing the machines or contributing an amount equal to the cost of the machines with the ownership being negotiated for the first year. Jean Fletcher, District I, seconded the motion.

Robert Clinton, District III, stated that the reason he voted to keep the Holly Hill Library open was because they were building a new building. He feels that if the city couldn't come up with the original requested amount of \$25,000.00 then they are not going to offer \$50,000.00.

Donald Needham, At-Large, amended his motion to approve the agenda item with the change of the City of Holly Hill becoming an equal partner in the partnership for the library portion of the operating costs for the first year. Jean Fletcher, District I, seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Budget Request:

Lucinda Colee, Library Director, presented the budget request power point, please see attached.

Donald Needham, At-Large, asked why we would be asking for a reduction of the millage rate at this time. Lucinda Colee answered that the County is trying to offset the tax increase created by the "Save our Homes" in conjunction with the reductions in property values.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked if Library Services is immune to the 10% County wide cut. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that you cannot take money from the library fund and put it toward other expenses. Neil Harrington asked how the state aid is used. Lucinda Colee answered that it is used for acquiring library materials. Donald Needham, At-Large, asked if Lucinda thought that the libraries would receive state aid next year. Lucinda Colee answered that she feels that the state will fund the minimum amount necessary to maintain the maintenance of effort to continue receiving Federal dollars until the economy recovers.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked if the Volusia County Public Library received any money from the Microsoft Grant. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that the lower income facilities have received funding over the years for computer equipment from the Gates Foundation.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked what steps were being taken to notify the public that the library system has had a budget reduction. He feels that the public needs to know that services are being cut. Donald Needham, At-Large, asked if there was someone who did PR for the County. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that Dave Byron, Community Information Director and Community Services Director, is who deals with public relations for the County. Chris Hartley, District IV, felt that the whole county should know about library budget cuts. Lucinda Colee answered that she would discuss with Dave Byron regarding a press release that would outline the budget cuts while highlighting the continued services with less money. Sue Lombardi, Chair, feels that this press release should come out now and also again in September.

Donald Needham, At-Large, asked how much the camera installation at the Deltona Regional Library cost. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that it cost approximately \$60,000.00. Donald Needham replied that he would like to see cameras at other libraries as well.

Neil Harrington, District II, asked if the library has a deferred maintenance policy. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, answered that the library does not have a deferred maintenance policy and continues its schedule of periodic maintenance.

Donald Needham, At-Large, asked how the library would pay for damages if a hurricane were to come through. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that any damages would be paid through insurance and the emergency funds. Neil Harrington, District II, asked if the library is still on reserve to be evacuation shelters. Lucinda Colee answered no.

Donald Needham, At-Large, suggested posting an advertisement for patrons to be able to donate money to a certain magazine or subscription for the library as a formal program. Lucinda Colee, Library Director, responded that she would look into it.

Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items:

The next meeting will be on September 10th at the Port Orange Regional Library at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsea Harrison