

Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 17, 2017

Acting Chair Jewel Armstrong Player called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM in the Fort Pierce Branch Library Meeting Room.

Members in attendance: Jewel Armstrong Player, Maureen Melvin, Eloise Cummings, Eukeba Jones, Rudy Widman and Carnelle Clifton. Also in attendance: Susan Jacob, Library Manager and Nancy Woodfin, Library Administrative Specialist.

Absent were Ethel Rowland and Marjorie Harrell.

The minutes from the last Board Meeting dated 10/17/2016 were distributed. A motion was made and seconded (Eloise Cumings /Maureen Melvin) to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- Library manager gave an update on new Paula A. Lewis Branch Library. LM has been attending construction meetings. The building has been taken down to the studs and work is progressing. LM showed the board a few photographs and said that we hope to have a full service “Creation Station” at this branch similar to the one we currently have at Morningside. She reported that the new branch will have lots of new tech equipment including gaming stations in the young adult area. The furniture has been ordered for the branch as well. A soft opening is expected in August with a Grand Opening after Labor Day 2017. The Library received a grant from the state of Florida for construction so it is likely that we will have state dignitaries in attendance. LM said that it may be possible for the next advisory board meeting to be held there.
- The renaming of the Fort Pierce Branch Library after Susan Broom Kilmer is set to move forward. LM reported that a resolution will go before the Board of County Commissioners on May 2, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Representatives from the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library Association, Inc. will be on hand to receive the resolution. LM recounted that Susan Broom Kilmer was Library Director for 22 years and had worked in the Library system for over 30 years. Rudy Widmer stated that the Friends of the Library are also working on commissioning a portrait that will be hung in the branch.

New Business:

- A preliminary discussion on raising the age on St. Lucie County Library youth cards was held. LM reported that we are only one of two library systems in the state that have a

youth card with a starting age of 14 years old. LM stated that most other libraries start their youth cards at ages ranging from 16 to 18. She asked the board if they remember any discussion on why this library system chose to go with the younger age. She mentioned that this could possibly affect the e-rate discount that we receive by being non-compliant because e-rate is more dependent on filtering than age and our computers are only minimally filtered for a 14 to 18 year old age group. LM reported that we currently have two tiers of cards, adult and child. She said that Randy Miller, Head of Library Information Systems, had suggested a third, teen card.

Rudy Widmer asked how other libraries handle this age group and whether we currently have a policy in place. LM responded that we do have a policy in place and that it would need to be changed if the status of the cards were to be changed. She said that she would look further into finding the reason for the original age designation and report back at the next meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Rudy Widmer/Eloise Cumings) to further research the issue and report back to the board. The motion passed.

- LM distributed a copy of the Library's budget for FY 18. She reported that the county's budget review is on May 5, 2017. She stated that this year's budget is significantly higher due to the new branch opening and that salaries are the largest expense for the Library followed by the electric bills, contracted services and rental books. She said that, new this year, would be a service called "Hoopla" where patrons could stream DVDs with their library card – like Freegal is for music, Hoopla is for movies. She commented that a service like this is something that the community has been asking for.

Friends of the Library Report:

- Carnelle Clifton reported that the Friends held their annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on Monday, April 3, 2017. She said that the event honored around 55 volunteers and was attended by a total of 80 people including volunteers, dignitaries and staff.

Ms. Clifton reported that representatives of the Friends would be attending the Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 2nd where the Fort Pierce Branch renaming resolution would be presented. She invited members of the Library Advisory Board to attend. She also reported that the Friends had a new member on their Board of Directors. Former County Commissioners Paula Lewis has joined the Friends board and she is very much a library advocate in St. Lucie County.

Library Managers Report:

- LM reported that we have hired 9 of the 11 new staff hired for the new Lewis branch. Also hired was a new librarian for the Port St. Lucie Branch whose position became

available due to moves within the system. Many staff have made lateral moves (4) or received promotions (7). She reported that we have found a place for all staff who wished to move up as well as for the part-time staff who wished to become full-time employees.

LM reported that plans are being made for the Summer Reading Program and that once again this year the Friends will be a sponsor. They will be joined by the St. Lucie Mets who will be donating ticket vouchers and the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, who have increased their grant to \$3500 this year.

LM reported that she will be attending the Florida Library Association Conference this year, May 10-12, along with two staff librarians, Kathleen Flynn and Sandy Henry-Gordon.

LM reported that the Library will become a Department within the county again. Since 2010 the Library has been a division under Community Service Department. As a department the Library will have a Director and will report directly to the Deputy County Administrator. This is expected to take place at the beginning of next fiscal year, October 1, 2017. A total of three departments in the county that were eliminated in 2010 are expected to be restored at that time.

Board Comments:

None

Next meeting scheduled for July 17, 2017, location TBD at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by Acting Chair, Jewel Armstrong Player, at 6:25 PM.

Minutes approved by the Library Advisory Board on July 17, 2017