

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 22nd, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bonnie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Julie Morrell, Library Manager
Bonnie Jenkins, Chair
Phyllis Wissner, Member
Leslie Metz, Member
Carolyn Kost, Member
Kate DeWitt, member of the public
Francesca Wernisch, member of the public
Deborah Searcy, Village Council Member
Tina Chippas, Member
Brad Avakian, Secretary
Christine DelGuzzi, Vice Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair DelGuzzi moved to accept the Minutes for July 25th, 2023, with minor correction (titling issue – correction of the heading over Old Business), motion seconded by Member Wissner. Motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Library Manager Julie Morrell reported the following:

- Facilities: Carpet to be cleaned, old/worn armchairs replaced, new Free Little Libraries that have been installed at some Village parks, TCS students painted/decorated them. Manager Morrell expects between 2000 to 4000 books to be donated from the county as a result from a grant, some of which can be used for new Little Libraries.
- Children's Programming: Four story times per week. Junior League starting up again and wants to offer free hearing/vision testing also. The Conservatory School ("TCS") will begin visits mid-September. Weekly Arts & Crafts ongoing. Art Appreciation once a month. Library Table will be at outreach events such as Touch-A-Truck, Heritage Day, Chili Cook-Off. 916 lunches and 968 snacks given out through June and July through summer free lunch program. Over 200 children signed up for summer reading and Library put on 91 programs; 2,739 attended these programs (80% increase from last year).
- Teen Programming: Teen volunteers totaled for 511 volunteer hours this summer, now back to normal after school volunteer schedule.
- Adult Programming: Knit and Crochet still meet every Monday, average 12 attendees. Adult Silent Film Series provides popcorn and lemonade or tea, 8 attendees at last screening. Book Club held August 3rd – What the Wind Knows by Amy Harmon (16 attendees). Bingo had 17 attend and Amerilife wants to continue to sponsor.

- Friends of the Library: Meetings will resume in the Fall.
- Statistics: Circulation is up from last year, but increase expected once school visits start up again.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Comment on the Agenda: Chair Jenkins suggested that Public Comment be moved down the agenda, members discussed. Vice Chair DelGuzzi made a motion to move Public Comment down the agenda to where Member Comments and Staff Comments, Member Wissner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Read for the Record: Council Member Searcy inquired about the Library’s plans for participation in Read for the Record this year. Manager Morrell reported that the Library decided to buy copies of the book on their own because last year it took too long for delivery. Discussion of Village having won small municipality two years ago and wanting to regain title this year.

Author Talks: Council Member Searcy inquired about upcoming author talks. Library Manager Morrell stated that the Library lost money on previous events. Discussion of the goals of author talks, generating revenue versus adding value and providing experiences to Village residents. Discussion of cost and parking at Country Club.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Displays Policy Second Draft: Changes to draft introduced by Manager Morrell. Draft of Display Policy analyzed and discussed by members. Mrs. DeWitt raised concern about different content in teen room and children’s section. Discussion by Council Member Searcy, public, and LAB members regarding separate spaces for teens and younger children and requirement that children under 13 must be accompanied by parent. Member Kost moved to approve with language added from prior draft, Member Wissner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Facilities Assessment: Council Member Searcy raised the current Village audit of all facilities and that assessment of Library facilities (including AC and roof) is on the horizon.

MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Brad Avakian.