

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 6, 2025

10:15 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Library Board

Roll Call

Present 4 - Chair Donna Dennis, Board Member Kelly Malizia, Board Member Loretta Mitchell, and Board Member Tanya Landry

Absent 1 - Board Member Rosemarie Kibitlewski, Board Member Kelly McLeay, and Board Member Helen Amburgey

Also Present - Jennifer L. Obermaier – Library Director, Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 Library Advisory Board meeting.

Member Malizia moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 Library Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: None.**4. New Business Items**

4.1 Fiscal Year 2025 Library Board Schedule

Members were encouraged to calendar all meetings dates so quorum will be met.

4.2 Election of Officers

Elect Chair and Vice Chair

5. Old Business Items

5.1 Beach Library Update

Library Director Jen Obermaier said the beach library and recreation center was damaged by Hurricane Helene. All building contents were thrown out. She said she is working through the rebuild process with the Parks and Recreation Director. The dollar amount of the repairs will need to be approved by Council. The timeline to reopen will depend on Council approval, the timeframe for repairs, and delivery of library furniture, materials, etc. Pop up libraries and services are being planned, and staff has been delivering new and reserved material to the beach twice a week to provide some level of service to the public until the library reopens.

In response to questions, Ms. Obermaier said there is not a projected cost of repairs yet but it will be costly. Claims have been submitted to insurance and FEMA. She said she would let the Board know when the Council is scheduled to vote on the repair expenditure.

6. Director's Report

6.1 Director's Report Items

Ms. Obermaier said the FY25/26 budget preparations are under way. She said all department directors were asked to provide reduction proposals for Council to consider. She submitted a proposal to reduce Sunday hours at the Countryside Library and Saturday hours at the Main Library. She proposed to keep the hours the same at the East, Greenwood, and Beach branches. Vacant positions are currently not being filled. She said many city departments have relocated with the renovation of the Municipal Services Building and the Human Resources Department is now located on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Main Library with over 20 staff members. She said Council Chambers will be relocated to the new city hall, once complete, and the room will be reincorporated into the library to reserve for events.

Ms. Obermaier reviewed upcoming events and programming at all branches and said the Main Library will be closed May 28-30, 2025 to support Pinellas County School graduations at The Sound and the North Greenwood Library will be closed temporarily in the spring for renovations.

7. Board Members to be Heard: None.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

Chair – Library Board

Attest:

City Clerk Specialist