

City of Clearwater

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 1, 2024

10:15 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Library Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Donna Dennis, Board Member Kelly McLeay, Board Member Kelly Malizia, Board Member Rosemarie Kibitlewski, and Board Member Helen Amburgey

Absent 2 - Board Member Andrew Lorenti, and Board Member Timothy Promen

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 May 4, 2023 Library board meeting.

Member McLeay moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Library Board as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

4. Old Business Items

4.1 Staff Vacancy Status

Library Director Jennifer Obermaier said positions are being filled but there are still open positions. The part-time positions continue to be a struggle to fill and retain.

4.2 Main Library Renovation Update

Ms. Obermaier said the renovation plan is on hold for now. The bluff development is on schedule. She said a water breach with the fire sprinkler caused a major flood event at the Main Library in September. Tens of thousands of gallons of water leaked from the third floor. The mitigation and repairs took about three months. All materials were thoroughly cleaned including 16,000 books that went through a freezing treatment process. She said staff had to be relocated to other branches which created a positive opportunity where everyone got to know and work with different employees.

5. Director's Report

5.1 Main Library Reconstruction Update

See item 4.2.

5.2 Summer Reading Program Update

Ms. Obermaier said patron attendance was higher this summer than it was pre-COVID. She said staff is already planning the programming for Summer 2024.

5.3 PPLC Interlocal Agreement Renewal

Ms. Obermaier said the agreement was up for renewal in 2023 and the PPLC Board voted to extend it another five years, no modifications were made to the agreement.

5.4 FY23/24 Budget

Ms. Obermaier said the budget is status quo, there are no decreases or increases. She said herself and administrative staff work together on the budget.

5.5 Fall and Spring Programs/Outreach Events

Ms. Obermaier said there was wonderful holiday programming. The libraries hosted Halloween, Thanksgiving, and winter holiday events, activities and celebrations. She said staff is focused on community engagement to promote the library and its offerings.

5.6 PPLC Staff Development Day

Ms. Obermaier said the PPLC hosts a staff development day every other year. It is a day of training and keynote speakers and it is a nice way to meet with library staff from all over. She said a staff development day for Clearwater library employees will be held in October.

5.7 Main Library Future Art Exhibits

Ms. Obermaier said the Clyde Butcher photography exhibit had to end early due to the flood. She said she is working with the Art and Cultural Affairs Coordinator to discuss other exhibit opportunities. In response to a question, she said the Clyde Butcher work was removed immediately.

5.8 Holiday Closures

Ms. Obermaier said the library would be closed on President's Day and Easter.

5.9 Library Foundation

Ms. Obermaier said the Foundation is going through changes with the executive director and there is nothing to report on. The backpack giveaway was approved.

5.10 Friends of the Library

Ms. Obermaier said the Friends are doing great things and have provided program funding. She said they are looking into offering book sales again. They are scheduled to meet next week.

6. Board Members to be Heard

In response to concerns, Ms. Obermaier said the new PPLC phone app should be up and working. The previous one was taken offline. The new app does not have the same features, but the PPLC worked hard to recreate the service. She said the main library will remain on the bluff and any changes to the use of the property would have to go to referendum. She said the Beatles museum project is dead.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Attest:

Chair – Library Board

Board Reporter