

City of Clearwater

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 5, 2022

10:15 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Library Board

Roll Call

Present 7 - Chair Donna Dennis, Board Member Barbara Ann Murphey, Board Member Helen Amburgey, and Board Member Timothy Promen

Absent: Vice Chair Kelly McLeay, Board Member Rosemarie Kibitlewski, Board Member Andrew Lorenti

Also Present - Jennifer L. Obermaier – Library Director, Patricia O. Sullivan – Board Reporter

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. at the Main Library.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2. Approval of Minutes**2.1 Approval of February 3, 2022, Library Board Minutes**

Member Murphey moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 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 Summer Library Program**

Library Director Jennifer Obermaier said this summer's reading theme is "Oceans of Possibilities." An adult reading program also is planned.

Ms. Obermaier said for the 2nd year, the library is partnering with the City's Sustainability Team to present a weekly green guardians series with family style programming that complements Greenprint 2.0. Starting in mid-June, the series of different topics, including fun crafts, will rotate between the 5 libraries. The program is well promoted. Flyers will be forwarded to the Board for distribution.

4.2 Main Library Parking Lot

Ms. Obermaier said Imagine Clearwater underground work will close most Main Library parking for approximately 4 months. Temporary parking signage across the street will be improved. Arrangements will be made if additional parking is needed. Bicycle racks were not affected. A new book drop was installed on Osceola Avenue.

5. Old Business Items

5.1 Main Library Renovation

Ms. Obermaier said the Main Library's CIP (Capital Improvement Project) request to renovate/reorganize the Main Library is being reviewed. Preliminary drawings have been submitted. If approved, work will begin October 1, 2022. Inflation and supply chain disruptions have posed challenges. Once Imagine Clearwater is completed, a synergy is anticipated between the park and library as more people enjoy bluff walk, first floor library activities increase, and shelving is lowered to enhance views.

It was indicated board members want to support this project when the City Council discusses it.

In response to a question, Ms. Obermaier said while Countryside and East Community libraries are fairly new, there are plans to refresh the North Greenwood Library.

5.2 Clyde Butcher Exhibit at Main Library

Ms. Obermaier said the Clyde Butcher exhibit was a great success. A short turn around is planned; Niki Butcher's works will be exhibited from mid-June through December. Niki and Clyde Butcher are married. Niki Butcher adds color to black and white photographs.

It was commented that Clyde Butcher's photographs enhanced visitors' knowledge of the Everglades.

6. Director's Report

6.1 Library Programs

Ms. Obermaier said the Library hosted Black History Month programming during February, culminating with the well-attended 6th annual night at the North Greenwood Library which featured great speakers and music. Neighborhood meetings are underway to gather community input re a North Greenwood CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency).

Ms. Obermaier said more than 2,000 people attended the March Comic-Con event at the Ross Norton Recreation Center. Admission to the family-friendly event was free. Staff was happy to restart this signature program. Ross Norton provided a more conducive venue for the event than the Main Library.

Ms. Obermaier said in April, the Main Library hosted a robotics competition and sponsored a team. The successful competition had a great turn out and attracted about a dozen teams on innovative kids.

Ms. Obermaier said in May the East Community Library hosted El Día del Niño and celebration of books which attracted more than 200 participants from the Hispanic community.

6.2 Library Budget FY22/23

Ms. Obermaier said to facilitate increased outreach to community events, staff will submit a CIP for a library vehicle to carry printers, tents, tables, telescope, etc.

Ms. Obermaier did not anticipate personnel cuts. The Library has 14 positions that need to be filled; the most critical need is for Librarians and Library Assistants. The starting salary is approximately \$42,000. Attracting new employees is a citywide challenge following the hiring freeze during the pandemic. The Library has been promoting from within and creating more vacancies. Turnover for part-time employees is significant. Part time positions are more challenging to fill.

6.3 Update Library Foundation

Ms. Obermaier said she had not received an update re Tuesday's Library Foundation meeting. The Library is grateful the Foundation funded the summer reading program and hopes it again funds the back to school giveaway providing children with backpacks, school supplies, and books. The Countryside Capital Campaign funded much of the Countryside Library's programming.

It was requested that the Foundation include Library Board members with its event updates.

6.4 Update Friends of the Clearwater Library

Ms. Obermaier said the Friends of the Clearwater Library did not plan a book sale in the near future. Friends' stores in each library are doing well. The Friends have agreed to fund scholarships for a staff member working on a bachelor's degree and for teen volunteers who are graduating from high school and going to college. Friends usually funds the summer teen intern program but the program was unable to get up and running this summer. The City provides seasonal library assistants to help with summer reading.

Ms. Obermaier said many visitors have returned and are attending the active Clearwater Beach book club; Zoom participation is still available. The pandemic forced the library to adapt for hybridized participation. A dedicated person monitors story time on Zoom

7. Board Members to be Heard

In response to a question from Member Promen, Ms. Obermaier said she had requested CView consider advertising library programs before City Council meetings.

Member Promen said members were responsible for following the Sunshine Law and regular attendance at meetings.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Attest:

Chair – Library Board

Board Reporter