

TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
TOWN 'N COUNTRY REGIONAL LIBRARY
JULY 26, 2018

Members Attending: Phyllis Alpert (Vice Chair), Shelley Blood (Secretary), Carmen Alvarez, Bob Argus, Maggie Coleman, Davis Gandeas, Jim Johnson, Candi Martin and Howard Harris were present.

Members Absent: Felicia Pecora (Chair)

Guests: Kevin Brickey, Mark Martinet, Bridgett Lattimore, Andrew Breidenbaugh, Aracelis Chapman, Sheryl Herold, David Wullschleger, Janet Marnatti, Chely Cantrell, Renelda Sells, Roland Ford, Suzanne George and Julie Troupe.

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm with a quorum present.

Minutes from the June 28, 2018 meeting were approved.

There were no presentations from the public.

The Library Tax District Fund Pro Forma for FY2018 – FY2023 was presented by Kevin Brickey, County Economist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policies & Bylaws Committee

The Library Board discussed the library renaming request by the Board of County Commissioners and reviewed the results of public feedback that was gathered from area homeowner's associations and library friends groups at community meetings and by online survey. Surveys were only gathered regarding the library locations under consideration (Seffner-Mango, Bloomingdale and New Tampa). Based on the feedback collected so far and lack of community support for the proposal, **the Library Board unanimously voted to defer a decision pending more community input or direction from Board of County Commissioners, as recommended by the Policies & Bylaws Committee.**

A first draft of suggested revisions to the Library Board Bylaws was distributed. Committee members were asked to provide any further suggested changes by email. The Policies & Bylaws Committee will review the Bylaws at their next meeting in October and forward to the Library Board for final approval.

The next meeting of the Policy & Bylaws Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018, 2:30 pm at 78th Street Community Library.

Finance & Planning Committee

The FY18 monthly budget reports were reviewed along with the Monthly Library Activity and Branch summaries. A high percentage increase was noted in circulation of physical items.

Staff provided an update on the County's FY19 Budget process including an overview of the department's accomplishments and key projects as well as a summary of ongoing and new recommended capital improvement projects.

A 360-degree panoramic view rendering of the new Riverview Library design was presented. Links will be posted to a Riverview Library construction website for public viewing.

The next meeting of the Finance & Planning Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 3 pm at North Tampa Library.

UNIFINISHED BUSINESS

Passport Acceptance began on July 7, 2018 at two locations—Port Tampa Library and Bloomingdale Library. Staff provided a brief overview of the program, which is going very well with Saturday being the busiest day.

An update was also provided on the PC Management software implementation.

The west building of the John F. Germany Library has been evacuated and the relocation to the main building is complete. The JFG landscaping renovation project is awaiting permission by the City of Tampa in order to commence.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

ADVOCACY REPORTS

Carmen Alvarez recently shared a recent opportunity to refer others to the Library's passport application program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussed the American Library Association's interpretation of meeting room space guidelines reinforcing the idea that the library is open to everyone regardless of their viewpoint.

A controversial article recently appeared in Forbes online suggesting Amazon as a tax-free alternative to the public library. The article has since been removed.

A sample post card promotional piece for the library's passport program and travel resources was distributed to all members.

The Urban Libraries Council released an annual publication of top innovators. THPL received an honorable mention for the workforce reimaging project that was done as part of our Vision 2020 strategic plan.

Reading with the Rays was a successful event with 240 attendees thanks to partners Tampa Bay Times and the Tampa Bay Rays.

Banners promoting the library system will soon be installed on the Tampa Riverwalk.

Julie Troupe, branch supervisor of Town 'N Country Regional Library was introduced.

Staff presented an overview regarding the federal eRate program funding for libraries including what program is, why it is important and who is eligible to receive this public funding. The goal of the eRate program is to help public schools and libraries provide affordable internet access which the library uses to fund internet service, air cards and other telecommunications costs. The program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2018, 3 pm at Arthenia L. Joyner University Area Community Library, 13619 N. 22nd Street, Tampa 33613. No committee meetings will be held due to the special Ethics and Sunshine Law training.