

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 21, 2024 - 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Wendy Holmes Boring, Member
Kathleen Kennedy, Member
Linda Borgia, Member
Jeanette Perkins, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Cohan, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Betcinda Kettells, Library Director
Ariana Wilson, Admin. Assistant – Clerk’s Office

There being no Chair or Vice Chair, Member Holmes chaired the meeting.

Member Holmes called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Member Perkins moved and Member Borgia seconded the approval of the agenda as presented; the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

2. Audience Comments – None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. 9/21/23

Member Kennedy moved and Member Perkins seconded the approval of the 9/21/23 minutes; the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

4. Action Items

a. Election of Officers 2024-25

With Chair Cohan being absent, the Board Members discussed continuing this item until a full board was present.

Member Holmes moved and Member Kennedy seconded continuing the Election of Officers to the September 19, 2024 meeting; the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Discussion Items

a. Past Programs including Adult Winter Reading

Mrs. Kettells reviewed some past programs which include:

- Partnered with SHINE to offer Medicare counseling
- Partnered with Creative Clay to offer art programs
- Partnered with the Supervisor of Elections to assist as a ballot drop-off location
- Partnered with Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary that brings live birds each month

Ms. Kettells also announced the Library offered multiple programs that featured pigs, dogs, cats, skunks, bats, donkeys, goats, and other farm animals inside and outside of the Library. They also had musical performers who sang holiday carols, Irish music, and sax quartet.

The Library offered Informational programs that included:

- American history
- local history
- advanced care planning
- sign language for children

Ms. Kettells announced the Library had a winter reading program for adults, which featured a local authors showcase, a punch card system to win prizes, a published author who discussed how to get published, and events for writers to gather and write or discuss their projects. She stated the Library averaged more than thirty programs each month since October.

b. Upcoming Programs

Mrs. Kettells announced now through April, the Library has displayed an exhibit from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History titled Exploring Human Origins: What Does it Mean to be Human? It consists of 20 panels that document what we know about our evolutionary journey. This exhibit will be traveling to other city venues in the future.

Ms. Kettells reviewed some upcoming programs which include:

- Genealogy program titled: Skeletons in the Family Closet
- Discussion of Science, Faith, and Reality
- “Light up your Library” campaign by a 4th-grade student at the Gulf Beaches Elementary School to raise money for an interactive light board for the children's area of the library. You can find more information on how to donate at spblibrary.com
- Solar eclipse event on April 1st
- St. Pete's poet laureate, Gloria Munoz, and local author Robert Lane will be visiting to discuss their work
- Summer Reading Program, with this year's theme being “Adventure Begins at your Library”
- Hope to sponsor some upcoming events this year, The Novelist Inc., and Surfers for Autism

Ms. Kettells thanked Alexa Sawyer who has done all the programming. She stated from October through February the Library had 34,766 visitors which averaged 292 people every day. They provided 194 programs which engaged 4,977 people.

The Board Members showed great appreciation for Ms. Kettells and thanked the Library staff for all of the community outreach and engagement they have received.

6. Adjournment - Next meeting 9/19/2024

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the September 19, 2024 Library Advisory Committee meeting.