



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

May 25, 2023

Members Present: Phyllis Alpert (Chair), Maggie Mardirosian (Secretary), Jessica Ocasio, Carmen Alvarez, Curtis Brown, Liz Hawley, Mary Kate Downing, Abigail St. Clair, Lauren Guerin, Michael Newett and Bob Argus.

Member(s) Absent: Candi Martin (Vice Chair).

Staff Present: Andrew Breidenbaugh, Sean McGarvey, Chely Cantrell, Kathleen Langevin, Wendy Prasad, Suzanne George, Aracelis Chapman, Allie Brazis.

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

New Public Library Board members, Liz Hawley (District 3) and Mary Kate Downing (District 2), were welcomed.

Public Comment:

David Coleman spoke in opposition to changes in accessibility for minors; expressed concerns about government overreach with regard to books in libraries and their removal.

Rachel Perez spoke in opposition to changes in accessibility for minors; expressed frustration that the public is not being listened to on this matter; there is a disconnect between this and the ALA issue; feels libraries are a refuge.

Tabitha Strickland spoke in opposition to changes in accessibility for minors; feels libraries are a sanctuary; opposed to an opt in/out; parents should have the responsibility.

Staff discussed a time frame for the BOCC assignment to create a policy to address minor access and how it will be approached to inform the Library Board's discussion and recommendations. Over the next few months there will be research of what similar libraries across the state offer as far as parental tools and exploration of what our integrated library system can do.

Minutes from the April 27, 2023 meeting were approved.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Library's Fiscal 2023 Budget report for April 30, 2023 was reviewed along with monthly activity summaries. Clarification was provided regarding expenditures for leased book invoices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Staff provided an update on current and future capital construction projects. Austin Davis Library is undergoing new AC, carpeting and ductwork installation and is expected to re-open mid-July 2023. Fendig Library restoration is going to take longer than expected. Brandon replacement library project design was approved to move forward and an architect selected. The future Thonotosassa library/park co-location project is scheduled to go for BOCC approval. Future renovations at West Tampa Library (carpet replacement and lowered shelving) are expected to take nine months.

NEW BUSINESS

The BOCC assignment timeline was discussed following Public Comment. There was no other new business.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Summer Reading programs will run July 1—31, 2023 offering in person and virtual events for all ages to support student reading at grade level. Visit [HCPLC.org/Summer](https://www.hcplc.org/Summer) to view the events calendar.

Branch supervisor, Wendy Prasad, was introduced and a site tour offered following the meeting.

The Citrus Park Mall library project remains active with staff still maintaining the items.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023 at Seminole Heights Library.