



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library

December 5, 2024

Members Present: Phyllis Alpert (Chair), Maggie Mardirosian (Vice Chair), Liz Hawley (Secretary), Mary Kate Downing, Alicia Guy, Curtis Brown, Bob Argus, Michael Newett, Ami Marie Granger Welch, Abigail StClair, Jessica Ocasio.

Member(s) Absent: Carmen Alvarez.

Staff Present: Andrew Breidenbaugh, Julio Granda, Chely Cantrell, Allie Brazis, Jasmine Qronfleh, Hetalben Patel, Shedriek Battle. Guests: Jonah Katz and Rebecca Hessinger; Jim Johnson.

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

Jonah Katz of County Infrastructure and Planning presented a detailed briefing and welcomed questions regarding the Bethune Park Master Plan for a large community center to include a library in Wimauma community.

Public comment was received from the following Hillsborough County residents who are in favor of a new library for the Wimauma community: John Regan, Augie Grace, Latoya Lovett, Pamela Gomez and Jackie Brown.

Based on staff's expressed commitment to the library portion of the Bethune Park concept plan, the Library Board unanimously voted in full support of a permanent Wimauma community library (Alpert/StClair).

New Library Board member representing District 1, Ami Marie Granger Welch, was welcomed and introduced.

Minutes from the August 22, 2024 meeting were approved.

The Library's Fiscal 2024 Budget reports for August, September and October were reviewed along with the monthly activity summaries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Library Board unanimously voted to accept the following candidates for Library Board officer positions as proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were no other nominations from the floor. (StClair/Newett)

Chair: Maggie Mardirosian

Vice Chair: Carmen Alvarez

Secretary: Liz Hawley (2nd term)

The Library Board and staff recognized outgoing Library Board Chair, Phyllis Alpert, for her all work and leadership.

NEW BUSINESS

The Duffy Children's Foundation proposed funding distribution was approved as presented by staff.

The Library's 2025 holiday closing schedule for 2025 was accepted without changes.

The 2025 Library Board schedule of meeting location was accepted without changes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff presented metrics on the usage of our Library Databases.

Library Board emeritus member, Jim Johnson, was welcomed.

There have been two recent changes in leadership. Julio Granda was introduced as the Division Manager for Library Support Services. Josh Bomaster was introduced as the Capital Projects & Budget Manager.

Recent news articles were shared regarding the topics of library safety and a government speech lawsuit.

A summary of events during Hurricanes Helene and Milton was provided. Approximately 250 employees were activated providing almost 15,000 hours of service in support of shelters, points of distribution and the Emergency Operations Center. A remediation company has been hired to work at several library facilities that experienced flooding. Repair work is covered by insurance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next regular meeting of the Public Library Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025 4pm at Charles Fendig Library.