



Hernando County Library Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Hernando County Library Advisory Committee (LAC) was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the Main Library, 238 Howell Ave., Brooksville, FL 34601. Alysha Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendee Name, Title

Alysha Smith, President

Jessica Haher, Member

Marguerite Wollerton, Member

Dorothy Masumian, Member

Angeline Philanders, Alternate Member

Cynthia Loftis-Culp, Library Services Manager

Joannah K. Holt, Accounting Clerk III

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

To approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Dorothy Masumian

SECONDER: Angeline Philanders

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion

To approve the minutes of November 12, 2024, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jessica Haher

SECONDER: Marguerite Wollerton

Library Services Report

Cindy provided the committee with the most recent HCPLS Services Overview. Ms. Haher asked if Cindy could provide a comparative overview including the prior two years at the next meeting. The library has requested approval to apply for a Seeds of Knowledge grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation and the BOCC has approved the request. This grant will provide up to \$750.00 for the purchase of native wildflowers, grasses and flowering shrubs and vines, plants, and seeds. The plan is to use the outdoor space at the Main Library branch for the plants and add the seeds to our seed library.

County Administration recently sent out a survey to all county departments requesting anonymous responses to questions regarding department waste. It is assumed that this is due to the BOCC making noise about budget cuts this year.

FEMA is still using the East branch library and will continue to do so until at least January 24th. VITA will start services soon at Main and Spring Hill until the conclusion of tax season. Ms. Haheer mentioned the Book Discussion groups meeting at Main are really looking forward to the new Reference Librarian starting. Her start date is February 3rd. At that time, HCPLS will be fully staffed at 34 full time employees. FY26 budget preparation is in full swing. Staff has until February 14th to submit their requests. Cindy explained we will make our yearly application for grant funds from the Division of Library and Information Services. The amount of funds awarded are based on the amount of financial support provided by the BOCC. That is why the amount varies from year to year.

Ms. Wollerton reminded the committee of the upcoming Booksville Festival to be held downtown on January 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The library will be a vendor providing opportunities to apply for library cards and giving out information about library services.

Ms. Philanders inquired about requirements for entry level positions noting the need for employment for those with limited or no experience. Cindy noted that there were 73 applicants for a recent LSA position. The Hernando County Human Resources Department reviews all applications and sends those qualified-on paper to the departments for consideration and interview. The HCPLS also utilizes volunteers however there are currently no openings. The system does not use more volunteers than they have work for.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library is doing well. FOL has donated \$1400.00 towards this year's Staff Development Day to be held on February 27th at the West Hernando branch. This year's theme is Let's Have a Real Conversation about Mental Health. The committee has arranged for two guest speakers and several related activities. Ms. Wollerton reported that FOL has been working with the Women's Club on the Booksville Festival and is planning on donating books for the Little Free Libraries throughout Hernando County.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Library Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the West Hernando Library, 6335 Blackbird Avenue, Brooksville, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.