



Hernando County Library Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Hernando County Library Advisory Committee (LAC) was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at the Main Library, 238 Howell Ave., Brooksville, FL 34601. Alysha Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Attendee Name, Title

Alysha Smith, President

Jessica Haher, Member

Marguerite Wollerton, Member

Monty Floyd, 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: Marguerite Wollerton

SECONDER: Jessica Haher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion

To approve the minutes of January 14, 2025, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jessica Haher

SECONDER: Marguerite Wollerton

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Motion

To elect Marguerite Wollerton as Vice President. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jessica Haher

SECONDER: Alysha Smith

SET 2026 MEETING CALENDAR

Motion

To set 2026 Meeting Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Alysha Smith

SECONDER: Marguerite Wollerton

CYNTHIA LOFTIS-CULP, LIBRARY MANAGER

- Valerie Martin, MLIS, is the new Cataloging Librarian. The Branch Supervisor position at East Hernando has been filled internally with Cristen Howell. The LIS II position at East Hernando has been filled with Victoria Brown. Joannah Holt, Accounting Clerk III is retiring effective November 3rd. Interviews for her position are scheduled for next week with an anticipated start date of October 13 for training purposes.
- The upgrade to the Main Branch electrical system was completed.
- Cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services on both the Federal and State level have led to HCPLS discontinuing their Inter Library Loan program. Funds are no longer available to pay Federal Express for pickup and delivery. In the past, we received grant funds from IMLS to cover 2/3 of the cost and that money is no longer available. Book discussion groups are not affected as their chosen books are purchased with other monies. Between October 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, more than 1000 titles were requested and received and more than 185 were loaned out. The approximate cost of loan per title was usually between \$4.00 and \$5.00. We have also been notified that the software which supported this program is being defunded effective June 30, 2026.
- At this morning's BOCC meeting, the Board approved the library's request to apply for an America 250 Grant through DOS Grants. This grant would cover programming celebrating Florida's 250th birthday.
- The budget process is moving along with the first public hearing this Thursday. HCPLS has requested one additional staff position. This position is for a Literacy Coordinator/Specialist who would develop programming to promote literacy both at the library and in the public schools. New flooring and interior paint for Main has already been cut. Mr. Floyd requested an update on the gutters at East Hernando. Facilities continue to cite funding as the reason they have not been replaced. Committee members can advocate to the Board if they see a need that is not being addressed. The 2024 Library budget was 2.4 million, 2025, 2.66 million and proposed for 2026 is 2.7 million. There is a continued concern that grant funds used to pay certain operating expenses will be cut therefore, those expenses are being moved into the General Fund, this accounts for much of the yearly increase.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Library is doing well. Summer Programming was a big hit. FOL funded many of the performers.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Floyd had several items to bring before the committee.

1. Mr. Floyd has received complaints from the Homeschool community regarding lack of space at the Main and West Hernando branches because of the homeless population spreading out among the tables and seating areas. In addition, they allege that they have witnessed public urination in the surrounding exterior areas. He provided a picture to the committee of the interior of West Hernando with some

seating areas circled. Marina Surette, Branch Supervisor of the West Hernando branch addressed his concerns. It was noted that the public, including the homeless, have equal access to a public library and if they are not violating the published Code of Conduct, they are permitted to stay. Discussion followed regarding potential solutions including a review of the Code of Conduct. It will be added to the November agenda.

2. Mr. Floyd handed out a proposed policy regarding the review process for children's material. He advised that it was based on the current policy in Largo. Mr. Floyd made note of Florida Statute 847.012 (6) which references the commission of a third-degree felony. He was made aware that the materials reconsideration policy currently in use at the HCPLS had been vetted and approved by the County Attorney's Office. Note was made of a parent's responsibility to review materials before their minor child checks them out.
3. Mr. Floyd brought out the book, Choose Your Own Adventure: Eight Grade Witch. He objected to the title's placement in the library and wished to return the book to the committee. The book is a Young Adult graphic novel. Mr. Floyd's objection was to the graphic nature, including decapitations.
4. Mr. Floyd has received complaints regarding the library's "inconsistent" hours. Ms. Loftis-Culp reviewed for the committee, the current branch schedules and made Mr. Floyd aware that funding and staff was limited, and that the system was open, in one location or the other, 6 days a week.

RECITE PLEDGE AND PRAY AT BEGINNING OF ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Motion

To recite the pledge and pray at the beginning of all Library Advisory Committee meetings. The committee participated in a spirited exchange regarding this motion. There was much back and forth regarding the appropriateness of prayer among individuals of differing religious beliefs, with various mentions of moments of silence instead. Ms. Haher moved to amend the motion to exchange prayer for moment of silence. There was no second. After continued discussion, the committee chose to replace prayer with invocation. The motion carried 3 yeas and one nay.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Monty Floyd

SECONDER: Marguerite Wollerton

CITIZENS COMMENT

Louis Johns, Spring Hill Neighbors, Voiced his objection to the lack of pledge and prayer at the start of committee meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next Library Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the West Hernando Library, 6335 Blackbird Avenue, Brooksville, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.