



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD September 24, 2020 Virtual Meeting*

Members Present: Felicia Pecora (Chair), Phyllis Alpert (Vice Chair), Maggie Mardirosian (Secretary), Carmen Alvarez, Bob Argus, Jim Johnson, Candi Martin, Shelly McClellan, Michael Newett and Abigail St. Clair.

Members Absent: Ben Hom.

Staff: Andrew Breidenbaugh, Jacquelyn Zebos, Sean McGarvey, David Wullschleger, Aracelis Chapman, Sheryl Herold, Janet Marnatti, Chely Cantrell, Renelda Sells, Matthew David, Tina Russo, Charlotte Diggs.

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

There were no presentations from the public.

The FY2020 monthly Library budget reports dated August 30, 2020 were reviewed. Staff addressed questions regarding payroll expenses related to Covid-19 emergency response and CARES Act funding.

Staff presented a summary of the Library's FY2021 year budget decision units that were approved in the budget starting October 1, 2020. These upcoming projects include bathroom renovations, a new Thonotosassa Library, renovations to West Tampa Library interior, newer technologies, acquisition of new materials utilizing lost fees, increase in digital collection funding, safety and security enhancements.

An update was provided regarding John F. Germany Library (JFG) and Riverview Library. The new Riverview Library is going well with most of the furniture already installed and awaiting shelving to be manufactured. Expected completion is December 2020. Staff is preparing for a virtual ribbon cutting and dedication. County Real Estate is working on lease with the Riverview Chamber of Commerce. Demolition and removal of the former annex area at JFG is substantially complete and landscaping is being restored.

Director's Update

Congratulations to Library Board members who were reappointed for another term by the Board of County Commissioners on September 16, 2020: Candi Martin (District 4), Carmen Alvarez (District 3) and Michael Newett (District 2).

A recent introduction meeting was held with the new Director of Bruton Memorial Library, Mr. Paul Shaver. Mr. Shaver was previously a library director in New Jersey.

One of our former Library Directors, Cecil Beach, passed away earlier this month. Cecil P. Beach served 1965 – 1972, and during his tenure he expanded library services with new branches. He supervised the

building of the Tampa Public Library (now the John F. Germany library) which holds a room named in his honor. Mr. Beach left Tampa for Tallahassee in July 1972 to become Florida's State Librarian.

Library Services staff have been serving in emergency response efforts working with various departments such as Parks & Recreation and Head Start in assignments from procurement to testing sites. Many of these assignments are now coming to an end which will allow us to adequately staff curbside service at library locations.

An update was provided on Phase 2 reopening plans following county protocols. Staff are consulting with the County Attorneys to determine whether BOCC authorization is required to reopen based on the Governor's order. Once approved, the first step of our Phase 2 limited reopening will begin after the 2020 general elections starting at a 25% capacity offering limited use of the internet computers and browsing collections. High touch services and meeting rooms will be available in a later phase.

In response to questions regarding Borrow by Mail and whether there has been any slow down in the service, staff reported that the program has been successful with approximately 6,000 requests per month filled within a 5-7 day turn around time.

The Library has applied for and received a CARES acting funding grant that will be used to expand circulation of hot spot devices. We are working on applying for every available grant in order to expand services.

Negotiations are underway to acquire land adjacent to the west of corner parcel at Lumsden for the Brandon Library replacement. Currently there is no time frame available for the project.

The upcoming Library Board meeting schedule was discussed in order to gauge member interest in virtual or in-person meetings. Library Board members expressed their preferences and concerns and inquired about the possibility of hybrid meetings. Should the Governor's order be extended to allow virtual meetings, we will continue to conduct meetings in an online format or staff will provide updates.

The Library Board wished farewell to David Wullschleger, Manager of Operations, in his upcoming retirement after 33 years of service.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

*Virtual meetings authorized by Governor's Executive Order.