



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
Hybrid Meeting - Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library  
April 29, 2021

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

Staff attending in person: Andrew Breidenbaugh, Aracelis Chapman. Staff attending virtually: Jacquelyn Zebos, Sean McGarvey, Chely Cantrell, Sheryl Herold, Carissa McQuay, Marc Lindley and Charlotte Diggs.

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

There were no presentations from the public.

Minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved without changes.

#### BUDGET REVIEW

The Library's FY2021 monthly budget reports for January, February and March 2021 along with a Quarterly Source and Use Statement were reviewed and accepted without concerns. A monthly activity report will be provided at the next meeting.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Staff briefed the Library Board regarding the department's budget submission to the County for the coming year FY2022-2023. All items in previous years were carried over into this continuation budget aside from decision units for operational and maintenance necessities:

1. Annual decision unit to utilize moneys received from lost items on items for the library system
2. Decision unit to cover projected cost increases for contract renewals and rate changes.
3. Increase in collection budget to cover difference created by reduction in state aid funding.
4. Operational budget efficiency; proposing to dissolve vacant part time positions to create full time positions as part of 2018 reorganization completion.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Update on Capital Improvement Projects: John F. Germany Public Library is undergoing exterior improvements such as landscaping, walkway coverings for Auditorium and lighting improvements; The

new Riverview Library is now open to the public. Some landscaping remains to be done. The Brandon Library replacement is moving forward with master planning being done for site. Estimated completion is 2 ½ years away. A Thonotosassa Library replacement has been fully funded. The Library is partnering with Parks & Recreation on a joint use project. Negotiations are in progress for property that will allow expansion of an existing county park to have some features that include a library facility. There is discussion with the County about leveraging existing County property to meet long term Library Service needs for east county (Apollo beach and Fishhawk). The Tampa Free Library (currently the Library's administrative offices) has been appraised and there have been discussions with the City of Tampa regarding ownership.

- Library Impact Fee Study: Commissioner Pat Kemp has requested that impact fees be looked at for libraries. A consultant will be engaged to review the sufficiency of funding structure, explore the feasibility of library impact fees in Hillsborough County and identify any potential adverse impact on the taxing district.
- Early Literacy Reorganization: Staff provided an update on the reorganization of program staffing and changes in the way the Library delivers changes in way we deliver early literacy programs to improve consistency and quality of programs. A group of dedicated staff are being trained to deliver all early learning programs throughout the system and implement a parental engagement component. In addition to on-demand access to virtual content, in-person changes will include evening and weekend programs and more convenient hours for parents.
- Remote Services: Two new services have been implemented to maintain level of service for customers. *Borrow by Mail* has been a popular option allowing customers to select books and have them mailed to their home. The Library also now offers Read or Reject, a reader's advisory service where customers complete a survey with their preferences and staff-selected books are mailed.

#### DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Recruitment for Public Library Board positions will soon be advertised to include vacant District 2 and 4 positions as well as members coming up for reappointment in Districts 1 and 3.

A status was provided on reopening plans. Phase 2 is nearly complete with most locations opened at 50% capacity. Lutz and New Tampa Regional Libraries are temporary closed for renovations. School partnership locations will reopen June 1, 2021. Phase 3 implementation will take us through the end of September. Plans are underway to bring back passport acceptance services over the summer and in-person programs at the end of the summer. Library staff continue to serve in some emergency capacity throughout the county. Chair Pecora commended staff for their dedication to public service and expressed appreciation to fellow Library Board members for their willingness to participate in meetings in one format or another and represent their districts. Library Board members were urged to continue to library advocacy efforts.

**The Library Board voted 7-1 (Mr. Newett opposed) to approve a motion by Mr. Argus, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to resume the regular monthly meeting schedule after the July 22, 2021 meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021. Format and location to be announced.