

LAKE WALES LIBRARY BOARD
MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY, February 24, 2025 AT

4:00 PM

LAKE WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY – SCHOENOFF MEETING ROOM

Members in attendance: Allison Kapphan, Jodie Schmidt, Kathy Manry Smith, Brandon Alvarado, and Imelda Tice

Staff in attendance: Belle Reynoso and Christine Runyon



The meeting was called to order by Allison Kapphan.

Review of the Meeting Minutes for December 2024

A motion was made by Allison Kapphan to approve the minutes for the December 2024 Lake Wales Library Board meeting. There was no meeting in January 2025. The minutes were approved by Allison Kapphan and seconded by Jodie Schmidt.

Library Updates

Library Director Belle presents her Director's Report.

Belle asks if anyone has questions about the Division Lead report.

Allie responds with a question about the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). Belle explains that most libraries have been a part of this national program for years, offering a variety of free resources, especially for the Summer Reading Program. However, this year the State of Florida is no longer partnering with CSLP. This means that the libraries can't use themes, slogans, or artwork associated with CSLP. Polk County Cooperative Libraries will either get together or separately to create a Summer Reading Program.

Bookmobile is still chugging along throughout Polk County. Kathy asks if the library is still using the old one. Belle responds that the Polk County Library Cooperative are in conversations about having one or two. Eventually, PCLC will get rid of the old Bookmobile and possibly use it in the Kathleen area.

BMail is doing well. They are realizing that a lot of people don't know what it is, but they are doing a lot of outreach and getting the word out.

The library had the bids go out for the renovation on Jan 31st. Those that were interested came to the library. Parlier and Crews is the architect. Mark Parlier was in person at the library, available to answer questions. The 8 interested parties took a tour at the area for renovations.

The last day for questions was Feb 4th, and on Feb 18th, six submitted their sealed bids to the purchasing department. In the process for an ITB (Invitation to Bid), you have to go with the lowest bid. The project's approximate cost was 200 K. The lowest came in at 176 K. Unfortunately for the low bidder, they forgot essential items such as a beam being put up, even though it was in the document. They wanted to amend the bid after it was the deadline, but it was not possible, so they had to withdraw.

The second lowest bid was 250K, by Qualis General Contractors. I like how they broke everything down, showing exactly what they are charging and why. They were very thorough in this approach. Brandon asks if they included any exclusions. Belle confirms they did not.

For books that the library weeds, Brandon asks if the library can donate the books to the senior communities, schools, etc. The library does this anyway and also sells a lot of the weeded materials. The renovations are gearing up which is exciting. Belle will be putting up signs and creating a press release in order to prepare the public as much as possible.

The library will no longer have the Bok Tower passes after March 31st. The grants aren't getting enough money for it anymore.

Per Belle, elections for the FLA leadership position have begun. She will inform the board members if she wins or not.

The board members inquire what this entails; Belle responds that it's like being on a governing board.

For Christmas parade the library won Most Creative. They took our picture weeks ago. We are decorating the dove we used in the parade for all the upcoming holidays. It was a great community event and we had a great time.

Jodie and Brandon talk about their love of the reports from the different departments. Belle mentions how interesting it is what the reference department is doing with their research lately. It's nice to see.

Just a reminder that the library is closing early on March 1st for Mardi Gras. The City is having an employee luncheon on Friday the 28th so we are closing for two hours.

Belle mentions that we have been having Mastering Database Classes. They have been moved to directly after Book Club because that seems to increase attendance.

Kathy asks who leads the Database programs? Belle responds that two employees, one from downstairs and one from the Reference Department.

Belle says that the resin classes are doing great, and the employee that led the class had 18 people for the first one. She had 8 people on a waiting list, so she had to do another class. There's another one scheduled for March already.

Kathy asks about information regarding Financial Fit.

Belle confirms that it helps users with budgeting, finance 101, that kind of thing.

Jodie asks if there is something available to help with a will. Belle confirms that LegalForms would help with that.

The library board members ask how many databases the library has. The library currently has 13 databases.

The library board members ask Chrissy the amount of extra patrons that stayed for the FinancialFit class after Morning Book Club. She confirms around four or five people decided to stay. The board members ask about the regular amount of attendees for Book Club; usually between nine and thirteen. Right now the Book Club is reading The Color Purple.

Other Business

No Library Board meeting will be held in May. The next Library Board meeting will be held at 4 PM on June 9th , in the Lake Wales Public Library's Schoenoff Meeting Room. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please email library@lakewalesfl.gov.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned by Allison Kapphan.

Submitted by:

Allison Kapphan, Chairman

Christine Runyon, Library Administrative Assistant