

**City of Pinellas Park, Florida
Barbara S. Ponce Public Library
Library Advisory Board Meeting
June 5, 2025 6:30 pm
Unapproved Minutes**

Present: Sara Nieves (Vice-Chair), Patricia Bennett, Joanne Cherry and Elaine Bovinette
Absent: Trish Le (Chair), Melissa Gonzalez and Emily Mullins
City Staff Present: David McMurrin, Library Director and Debra Surprenant, Administrative Clerk

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Nieves at 6:36 p.m.
2. **Swearing in of Elaine Bovinette as a Library Board Regular Member:** Library Director David McMurrin administered the Oath of Office to new Library Board Regular Member Elaine Bovinette.
3. **Approval of February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Bennett moved with a second from Ms. Bovinette that the February 6, 2025 minutes be approved. All Ayes. Motion passes.
4. **Monthly Statistics** – Mr. McMurrin highlighted the monthly statistics for the first five months of the year. He noted that the library door count was down in May because the library was closed more days than usual. This year the Youth Services Department received a \$3,000 grant from Florida Humanities but did not receive the Dollar General Grant, probably because they received many more grant requests than in previous years. There were approximately 300 people in attendance of the Youth Services Summer Reading Kick-Off held May 31st. There have been several new attendance strategies employed for sign-ups and prizes.
5. **Old Business**
 - A. **Art Society Update:** Mr. McMurrin stated that the Art Society move is complete and they have had several good programs. They participated in the Summer Reading Kick-Off. They will need to make adjustments to Sunday programming due to the new policy of being closed on Sunday's.
 - B. **Mural Art on Library Update:** Mr. McMurrin stated that installation of the mural for the front of the library has been put on hold due to various levels of budget concerns.
 - C. **Public Printers Update:** Mr. McMurrin stated that the credit card machines are now available to patrons plus options to send print jobs from a home computer or a phone. This is reducing the computer coaching staff needs to do when a patron forgets a password. This is making printing very convenient for patrons.
6. **Director's Report**
 - A. **Project and Staff Committee Update:** Mr. McMurrin stated that there have been staff adjustments. Youth Services staffer Amanda Cox resigned in April. Her position has been filled by Caylie Richardson and Kenzie Riggan replaced Caitlin LeDrew in the Circulation Department.
 - B. **Friends of the Library Update:** Ms. Bennett stated that the Friends participated in the Summer Reading Kick-Off. They were pleased with how many people came by their table and were interested in knowing more about them. New updated membership brochures have been designed with the help of Saturn in the Circulation Department and were available for handout. It was stated that the Friends are interested in discussing ways to interest young people into memberships with Sr. Librarian Ginger Brengle. Ms. Cherry stated that she purchased \$500 worth of books for the Little Free Libraries and Book Rescuers have been giving her donations also.

C. Library Programs and Events:

- i. Change of Library Hours beginning June 1, 2025: Mr. McMurrin stated that the library is no longer open on Sunday's, as of June 1, 2025. Seminole Library and Clearwater East are the only two libraries now open on Sunday's. One of the primary reasons for our Sunday closure is staff scheduling. With very limited staff here both days of the weekend and low staff on Friday and Monday, due to being here on the weekend, this was causing program limitations and options on Friday and Monday's.
- ii. Collection Adjustments Made in May: Mr. McMurrin stated that while we were closed to have the front library windows replaced staff worked very hard on weeding the collection. One of the main focuses was to remove the copies of books that hadn't circulated very often or for a long period of time.
- iii. FASFA Report: Mr. McMurrin stated that the library staff helped 46 families sign up for college financial aid. Most of those who were helped had computer skill and foreign language limitations.
- iv. AARP Tax Help Report: Mr. McMurrin stated that 350 tax forms were filed during this year's tax help.

D. Building Project Updates: The library windows are in the process of being replaced with hurricane resistant windows. The library will be closed Monday, July 7th, to allow for the main front sliding doors to be replaced.

E. PPLC Updates: Mr. McMurrin stated that PPLC Executive Director, Cheryl Morales appeared before the County Commission to address the PPLC policy regarding LGBTQ+ library displays and content.

7. New Business:

A. Re-Appointment Inquiry of Library Board Teen Members:

- i. Ms. Bennett moved with a second from Ms. Cherry that Trish Le be re-appointed as a Teen Member of the Library Board for a period of one (1) year, expiring June 30, 2026. All Ayes. Motion passes.
- ii. Ms. Bennett moved with a second from Ms. Bovinette that Emily Mullins be re-appointed as a Teen Member of the Library Board for a period of one (1) year, expiring June 30, 2026. All Ayes. Motion passes.
- iii. Ms. Cherry moved with a second from Ms. Bovinette that Pat Bennett be re-appointed as a regular member of the Library Board for a period of three (3) years, expiring June 30, 2028. All Ayes. Motion passes.

B. Library Visits: Mr. McMurrin wanted to make the Library Board aware that recently a County Commissioner had visits local libraries and had concerns about locations of LGBTQ+ items and materials.

C. Empowerment Collection: Mr. McMurrin stated that staff is working with local businesses on creating an area within the library to house an "Empowerment Collection". This is a specific location within the library where people who may be reluctant to inquire about tough subjects, ie: suicide, mental health, drugs, etc., can pick up literature that doesn't have to be returned.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:30 pm.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Nieves – Vice-Chair

David McMurrin, Library Director