

**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN OF LADY LAKE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LADY LAKE LIBRARY BOARD
LADY LAKE, FLORIDA**

**August 13, 2015
4:00 p.m.**

The Lady Lake Library Board Meeting was held in the Town Hall Commission Chambers at 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake, Florida. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson/Member James Page, Member Linda Underhill, and Member Dorothy Grubb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairperson/Member Dr. Paul Harsh

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Marsha Brinson, Library Director; Mary Richichi, Staff Assistant to Town Clerk; and Julia Wolfe, Assistant to Town Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor/Commissioner Ruth Kussard

ABSENT: Frank Kirschenheiter

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairperson/Member James Page called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Dave Stull, North Lake Presbyterian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN FORUM: There were no comments from the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 12, 2015

Upon a motion by Member Underhill and a second by Member Grubb, the Lady Lake Library Board approved the minutes of the February 12, 2015 regular meeting as presented by a vote of 3 to 0.

REPORT BY CHAIR:

Mr. Page, Vice Chairman of Library Board, stated that he would like to have additional members added to the Library Board. He indicated that they had not been able to have meetings since February due to the fact that one of their board members was missing. He asked that the Town assist the Board by advertising and getting an additional member.

Kris Kollgaard, Town Manager, indicated that the Town has run ads for residents to apply for membership on the Library Board, however there had not been anyone applying for these positions recently. She told the members that if they know of anyone who may be interested in joining the Board to please encourage them to apply.

Vice Chair/Member Page, as well as Member Underhill said that Frank Kirschenheiter had been on the County Library Board and thought that he could be a member on the Town Library Board as well. There was some discussion on this that indicated that it was believed that a person could not serve on both the County and Town Library Boards. However, Mr. Page said that he had served on both County and Town Library board for ten years and did not see why Mr. Kirschenheiter could not be a Town Library Board member if he wanted to be.

Ms. Kollgaard said that she would give Mr. Kirshenheiter a call and ask if he would be interested in joining the Town Library Board as well.

REPORT BY TOWN COMMISSION LIAISON:

Mayor Ruth Kussard reported that she had seen a number of news articles recently about how well activities are going in the library, especially activities for children. She indicated that she was very pleased with the positive flow of news regarding the Lady Lake Library. She stated that everyone working in the library under Marsha's direction is doing a wonderful job. Mayor Kussard said that she felt it was impressive to have so much involvement in the Library.

Ms. Kollgaard stated that there was a group of Town representatives participating in series called "Every Hero Has a Story" last month. She stated that it was really nice; the police chief picked out a book and read it to the children. The fire chief, as well as the K9 unit, and the Animal Control officer, all visited the library and talked with the children, which was packed with kids. Ms. Kollgaard stated that they had even dusted off the old McGruff dog costume and one of the officers wore it and met with the children. They all agreed that it had been a wonderful experience for the children.

REPORT BY LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Frank Kirschenheiter was not present.

Vice Chair/Member Page commented that he had noticed that the Library Director had not attended the past few month's County Library Board meetings.

Ms. Brinson indicated that it had been very busy in the library the past several months, and that they had been shorthanded, which required her to wear many hats as other staff members were working on special programs.

Vice Chair/Member Page indicated that he did not think that the County Library Board meetings had been very busy during the past several months and that based upon all the information presented, he was sure that Ms. Brinson was doing a very good job

REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

Library Director Marsha Brinson reviewed highlights of the July 2015 Library Director's Report. The report handed out was as follows:

Ms. Brinson stated that she wanted to say how good it was to be back in a Town Library Board Meeting that hadn't been able to meet since February 2015.

I am pleased to report that our Summer Reading Program was a resounding success! Youth and adults enjoyed performers, contests, story times with special guests, and a luau to complete the excitement.

Our youth had a wonderful summer. The theme of the Summer Reading Program was "Every Hero Has a Story". In accordance with the theme, we featured our local heroes at weekly story times. Our police, firefighters, the police canine unit, the postmaster, local military and EMT's visited the library. They read to the kids and told them about their jobs. The children were enthralled by the police car and fire trucks. They were treated to some sprays from the fire hoses on perhaps the hottest day of the year. I would have to say that the favorite guest was Gangster, the police dog. The kids loved him and he was very patient with them crawling all over him and petting him. The Bike Rodeo given by the Lady Lake Police Department was a huge success. Kids learned bike safety and everyone went home with a new bike helmet. Several bicycles were also given away. Kids went through an obstacle course with an officer's help and had a great time.

Our children were also captivated by entertainers provided with funds from our local Kiwanis Club. Story tellers, magicians, a mad science program, and a reptile program were enjoyed by the kids and parents. Our entertainers also brought the theme of heroes into their programs to go along with the Summer Reading Program.

The kids worked hard all summer reading at least six books and doing book reports to be eligible to attend the end of the summer luau. We had 48 who completed the program attend with their parents and grandparents. Children all received a certificate of completion for the program and drawings were held for several grand prizes. Everyone was entertained by the Villages Hula Dancers who also gave a history lesson about Hawaii and the hula. Of course no celebration would be complete without refreshments; pulled pork and pineapple with drinks and cookies were enjoyed by all. Our Friends of the Library graciously provided the refreshments.

Our adult patrons took part in book bingo this summer. They filled up special bingo cards by reading materials listed on the squares of the card. By reading and making a bingo they received a gift card donated by our Friends. We had about 20 adults take part and they had fun filling the bingo cards with such categories as "a classic", "a book with an animal as the main character" or a "book with a blue cover".

The roof over the Youth Library is being repaired and is almost completed. Repair work has been done to stop some leaks. New plywood and flashing have been put down and a polyurethane coating is going to be applied and the shingles will also be replaced. The roof was original to the building and was showing its years, but will have a new, warrantied life with the repairs.

The front (Guava Street) entrance to the library has been tiled. Not only does it look beautiful, but it keeps water from pooling at the entrance, as well as making it slip resistant. It is a nice aesthetic addition to the library. Ms. Brinson stated that she and her staff very pleased that the repairs have been made and hopefully will serve the library well for a number of years to come!

With school starting, we wind down a bit from programming in August but are busy planning programs for the fall and winter. A series of history programs are in the works. We already have a local re-enactor who will be portraying Emily Dickinson and have contacted several others who may be performing. A Civil War program is also being planned. In October or November, we will be hosting a local author and literature conference as well as holiday programming in December.

Staff is also working on weeding the collection of outdated and shabby looking materials. We are able to replace worn books with new copies to keep the collection fresh and up to date through donations.

New thematic displays will also be in place for the fall and winter seasons. The themed displays in the library attract a lot of attention to materials that might otherwise not circulate or bring attention to old favorites.

We will also start to rearrange the Youth Library for better functionality and to make it more attractive to children, teens and families. Ms. Brinson stated that she and her staff

All of the amazing programs, story times, special projects and creative ideas are due to my wonderful staff. They are dedicated, hard-working and willing to go above and beyond to create an inviting library and library experience.

We are excited about all the possibilities and adventures that will be in the next library chapter.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Brinson, Library Director

There was further discussion by Ms. Brinson and the Board regarding programs offered by the library.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chair/Member Page said that he would like to see some new things added to library that would encourage children and more adults to use the library.

Ms. Brinson indicated that there are several new things that are being considered for the library. One of the most important things that Ms. Brinson and her staff would like to accomplish is to make the children feel welcome and excited about the library, and that it is a safe and happy place for children and their families to visit.

Ms. Brinson indicated in the Library Report for July 2015 that the Monthly Patron Usage of the Library rose from 9,649 in 2014 to 15,713 in July 2015. The Library Board was very pleased and asked what she believed was the reason, and she stated she believes it is due to the expanded programming at the Library. She went on to say that as the library progresses into the future, the libraries need to change their function to not just checking out books, but to become a center for life-long education and training. Ms. Brinson stated that this is a role the library is primed to move into, which is what she and her staff are working toward. She stated the reason for this is due to a lot of expanded programming. She stated that they have had a lot of positive feedback from library visitors about the displays and new programs and how happy the library patrons are with these new programs.

Ms. Brinson stated that they want library visitors to feel happy, welcome and at home, and once again stressed that the library's function is not to just check out a book, but a place for lifelong learning, training and education. She stated that we need to make the library a safe place in today's world, where children particularly, feel safe and is a place where the staff wants to help them.

Member Grubb stated that she was very pleased with the job Marsha and her staff are doing. She said that the staff makes it a very happy and welcoming place.

The Board members said that they would like to draw in more teens into the library.

Ms. Brinson stated that their new part-time person, Tory, is working on programs that will draw tweens and teens into the library. In the past, the teens have been coming in just to play video games on the computer, the staff wants to change that and develop more structured programs.

Ms. Brinson also talked about visiting the Melrose Center in Orlando last year, with the Town Manager and John Pearl, IT administrator. She stated that they were very impressed with all the computers, 3D-studios, and Technology Maker space etc. that they have in place. She stated that she would like to see the second floor in our library made into this type of area, with crafting also, as this is the type of change needed, moving to the fore front of libraries in the future.

Ms. Brinson also discussed the film editing program that Tory has been working on. In addition, she told the Board about a four day, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon program donated by a Village resident, Mr. Barry Carlow, teaching 10 and 12 year olds about basic theatre and performing arts. Then on Friday, they did a small play entitled "Fairy Tales Go to Court" which was recorded by Tory on a DVD that will be ready to see in about a week. She stated that the kids really enjoyed the experience.

Ms. Brinson also told the Board that two of her staff people, Tory and Nicole, would like to develop a Junior Advisory Board for 9 and 10 year olds up to teens. They believe that having a group in this age group will develop a sense of ownership and decision making responsibility. The Board indicated that they would like to get feedback on this type of program.

The final topic of discussion was concerning inter-library loan. Vice Chair/Member Page said that in 2008, due to budget constraints, this program was eliminated. He stated that he would like to see it come back. A discussion followed on how inter-library loan programs have become very expensive, sometimes costing over \$30 per book.

Ms. Brinson said that some libraries are now copying pages for people doing research, rather than a whole book, which is much less costly.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS/OTHERS: No further comments were made.

ADJOURN: *With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.*

Mary M. Richichi
Staff Assistant to Town Clerk

Dr. Paul Harsh, Chairperson