

**Pinellas Public Library Cooperative
Library Directors Advisory Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES**

January 10, 2022– Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

LDAC Member Attendance:

- Jen Obermaier, Clearwater
- Phyllis Gorshe, Dunedin
- Lois Eannel, East Lake
- Vince Gadrix, Gulf Beaches
- Dave Mather, Gulfport
- Casey McPhee, Largo
- Susan Hurley, Oldsmar
- Gene Coppola, Palm Harbor
- Angela Pietras, Pinellas Park
- Mallory Cyr, Safety Harbor – proxy
- Betcinda Kettells, St. Pete Beach (Chair)
- Mika Nelson, St. Petersburg
- Lorie Tonti, Seminole
- Cari Rupkalvis, Tarpon Springs

PPLC Staff Attendance:

- Cheryl Morales, PPLC Executive Director
- David Stoner, PPLC Technology Coordinator
- Gary Earl, PPLC Countywide Services Coordinator

Other Guests:

Betcinda called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

1. Roll Call – Jennifer Obermaier was absent. Gary, Angela & Cari joined in after roll call – Casey joined in at 2:30pm

2. Acceptance of November 2021 Minutes – Lois made a motion to accept. Phyllis seconded.

3. SIG Reports

E Content SIG – Cheryl- not much new to report.

YS SIG – Lorie- Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education staff did a presentation – not much else to report.

CAT SIG – Susan – been reviewing cataloging standards & making sure everyone sticks to the same standards – should be patron driven – meeting again Feb 16 – goal to keep working on cat standards

CIRC SIG – Mallory – met Nov 18 – next meeting Feb 24 – nothing new to report

ADULT SIG – Gary – meeting this Wednesday – nothing major happened at last meeting (October)

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

COVID Operational Updates –

Lois – ELCL having major staff issues due to exposures. They will be closing on Sundays at least through January to evaluate. Children’s programs were cancelled this week due to staff shortages. All three scheduled passport appointments cancelled because all of them had COVID.

Phyllis – Dunedin started back with evening hours last week and are remaining closed on Sundays. They may not add Sunday hours back at all. There are three staff vacancies with great applicants. Operations are remaining status quo, and all employees and volunteers must wear masks in the building.

Vince – no issues at Gulf Beaches to report – hours & programming remaining the same.

Dave – no issues at Gulfport. In-person programming still going, with limited capacity and Story Times are held outside.

Susan – no staffing issues at Oldsmar since they had to close back in March. They’re open regular hours, offering in-person programs and Story Times have limited attendance. The Fire Dept offers rapid tests for employees only. They changed quarantine rules to follow CDC. Experiencing a lot less foot traffic.

Gene – Palm Harbor is staying the course – full in-person programs started this month.

Angela – Pinellas Park is conducting business as usual – no issues.

Mallory – no plans to change anything at Safety Harbor. Hours remain the same and in-person programming continuing. They require registration for Story Times to limit audience and have had no staffing issues.

Betcinda – St. Pete Beach has had no problem w/illnesses but are experiencing a lot of turnover in staff. They are toying with cutting hours because so short-staffed. The Programming Librarian position is vacant, so programming has gone by the wayside. They do have a few big author events coming up.

Mika – St. Pete has made some policy changes to align with CDC recommendations. Masks are required citywide and staffing been tricky due to illness. They nearly had to close a library today. Pop-up Story Times held in parks to try to get outdoors more. May look at closures if staffing issues continue.

Lorie – At Seminole, masks are required for staff. No staffing issues and Fire Services provided staff with at-home tests. Still offering in-person programs, and one presenter requested an outside one in Feb. No change in hours.

Cari – Tarpon Springs is back to mandatory masks for staff and testing is available through the local Fire Dept. They have switched most meetings from in-person to Zoom.

Cheryl – No changes at PPLC – have only had one staff out with COVID. They’re following the symptom-free for five days before returning to work since testing is so hard to come by. They have always worn masks and are able to easily stay social-distanced.

Two New Item Type Requests – Gene is requesting two new item types for Palm Harbor’s materials vending machines at the Rec Center & the Library. He would like separate ITypes for each machine so they can pull separate stats for each location. It would also allow members to use both machines without maxing out. The machine outside the front of the library was vandalized, so they’re going to need to get a new one. David said there is no cost to change IType, but there is to add a new Location,

and suggested adding a label in the Item Categories. Gene will work directly with David on coming up with a plan. Angela made a motion to approve the solution David and Gene come up with, which may include the use of new ITypes. Lorie seconded the motion. End results will be sent to Betcinda & Lorie to include in final meeting minutes. David also mentioned if there are specific Item Types each branch uses, David can set custom lists for each branch within a day of being sent a list.

Countywide Digital Collection – Angela discussed the idea of offering a countywide patron survey on if patrons are placing holds on both print and digital copies of titles. She said it's hard to determine the need for materials purchasing without truly knowing the preference of our users. Gary said overall, the physical circulation of materials has gone down and the digital has increased. Early in the pandemic, digital circ got a bump, but it has started to level out, while the physical has gone down minimally. The digital represents 12-15% of total checkouts. Angela suggested creating an ad hoc committee to address some of these concerns, including PPLC switching over to cloudLibrary instead of Libby, or just have libraries continue to over both. There was discussion about how everything is not always available on both platforms. Angela made a motion to create an ad hoc committee to investigate and come up with a proposal. Mika seconded. Angela is the chair of the committee.

6. PPLC Topics

Reading with the Rays – Gary announced the Rays want to offer RWTR again this summer and will return to the full in-person version with prizes, etc. More info will be coming soon.

Program Guide – Gary announced the January one was printed and sent out – if a branch did not receive copies it's because their staff did not send in contributions. The February guide is in process and will be printed soon – if we want to change # of programs we receive reach out to Gary.

FL Orchestra – Cheryl announced they are interested in re-starting the voucher program again. There were some patron complaints that people sent in their vouchers and never received their tickets. Some branches felt they did not get enough vouchers. Cheryl will request as many vouchers as they are willing to send, and all branches said they are interested in participating again.

FLIN Share-It & OCLC – The State Library is really encouraging libraries to join FLIN Share-It. After this FY, libraries that do not participate in FLIN Share-It may have to cover postage for orange bag deliveries. If you are a member of FLIN Share-It, the State will pay for postage. Susan discussed how Oldsmar participates in both FLIN Share-It & OCLC and hasn't had any issues.

Courier Contract – Cheryl discussed issues with courier delivery over the holidays. The committee is still reviewing proposals.

Library Day – Phyllis, Cari & Cheryl are all still planning to go to Tallahassee, unless something happens between now and Monday. They have been having a hard time getting appointments and have only heard back from two aides. Hillsborough County is not attending in-person and is working on setting up Zoom meetings with their legislators. We were encouraged to send e-mails or reach out to our specific representatives because they would rather hear from their constituents about how much we rely on State Aide to public libraries.

DEI Policy – Cheryl discussed the importance of adding a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy in regards to our collections, displays and programs because of recent increases in book challenges. The group agreed

that it would be helpful for PPLC to have one overall statement. Phyllis, Gary, Lois & Casey all agreed to help create a general statement to share with the group. It may also be addressed in the upcoming renewal of PPLC Interlocal Agreement set to expire in 2023. Mallory mentioned Lisa sent Cheryl their updated policies/procedures after their recent challenge. The ALA Toolkit has a form for reconsideration of materials, if anyone would like to explore updating their policies.

7. PPLC Board Meeting – LDAC Chair Report

Betcinda was unable to attend at the last minute, so Cheryl provided an update. The Board was updated on: the Courier RFP Process; \$220,000 ARPA Grant for CareerOnline HS; the Community Re-development work happening in front of the PPLC building- if visiting, arrive from Drew St, not Cleveland -replacing building's flat roof;; ARPA Grant meeting with Amy Johnson; Annual Library Directors Meeting; TBLC Board Meeting; Legislative Library Day; Doug Lewis is retiring so he has left the Board and Pinellas Park has a new City Manager.

8. Public Comment - None

9. Announcements from PPLC Libraries - None

10. Adjournment – 2:50pm

Next LDAC Meeting: Monday, February 14 at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Tonti, LDAC Secretary