

# Library Advisory Board (L.A.B.)

## of the Palm Beach County Library District

**BOARD MINUTES of January 6, 2025**

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### Call to Order

Megan Bob, Chair, officially called the regular meeting of the Library Advisory Board to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Canyon Branch, 8915 Senator Joe Abruzzo Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33472.

### Roll Call

**Members Present:** Megan Bob, Catherine North, Perry McDowell-Demps, Kathi Gundlach, Dale Blanton, Cindy Jones, Abby Baker, Linda Knox, Jody Mindell, Annie Ifill, Sherry Albury, Virginia Saviutto

**Absent:** Lisa Seymour, Julia Matthews

**Also in attendance:** Doug Crane, Library Director; Anthony Longo, Capital Projects Manager; and Giselle L. Badillo, Administrative Assistant; Lainey Brooks, Prospective Member.

### Approval of Minutes

*A motion made by Cathy North, seconded by Kathi Gundlach to approve the November 18, 2024 minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.*

### Adoption of Agenda

*A motion made by Dale Blanton, seconded by Virginia Saviutto to approve January 6, 2025 meeting agenda was unanimously approved.*

### Director's Welcome

Director Doug Crane greeted the board members and thanked everyone for attending the first LAB meeting at the Canyon Branch. Ms. Lainey Brooks was welcomed to the meeting by the Director. Her appointment as a board member to the remaining vacancy for the District 5 is expected to happen at the next Board of County Commissioner meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The library's Capital Projects Manager, Anthony Longo will join the meeting and for the scheduled tour of the new branch.

### Correspondence

None.

### **Presentation: Capital Projects Overview – Doug Crane**

A brief summary of the historical establishment of the Palm Beach County Library System through capital funding for projects.

In 1967, the State passed legislation creating a County Library System and a dependent taxing district to fund it. This legislation was spearheaded by Palm Beach County League of Women Voters to meet the growing need of the community for public services in the unincorporated areas. Florence Biller was appointed as the first Library Director. After two years of the initial planning and preparations, a small storefront branch was opened in the Village of Tequesta and a Bookmobile began operations. The next step for the newly established library

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system was the construction of the Main Library branch in 1972, which was subsequently expanded three times over the next twenty years.

Under Jerry Brownlee, whom was appointed as Library Director in 1980, the PBC Library System saw a rapid growth in facilities owned by the County versus rented storefront locations. By the 1990's, a bond initiative was approved by voters to fund the first every expansion of the library system. During this time period many of the current branches were built.

A second expansion of the PBC Library System was made possible by a second voter approved bond initiative passed in 2002. The funds accumulated from the bonds were used for further expansion and renovations between the years of 2006 – 2015. Starting in 2006, it was overseen under the leadership of new Director John Callahan. It added three new branches, replaced three old buildings with new ones, expanded three buildings, and renovated all remaining buildings.

Douglas Crane was appointed Library Director in 2014. Projects such as the construction of the Canyon Branch and recent renovations were possible with the impact fees collected from developers and ad valorem dollars accrued. Future projects include the construction of an additional branch in Hypoluxo, a new Main Library facility (adjacent to the current) and assigning two library locations a year for renovations in the next 10 to 15 years.

**Guided Tour: Canyon Branch – Doug Crane**

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L.A.B members were given their first guided tour of the completed Canyon Branch facility before its official grand opening by Doug Crane and Anthony Longo. The Board was escorted just outside of the main entrance. A description of the surrounding residential and commercial area was relayed to the members. This included a tour of the courtyard's architectural features including the public art installation and drive thru that is uniquely available to Canyon Branch.

Members were led back inside the building through the main entrance. The tour continued inside of the building by visiting all sections, beginning with the Member Services area with the sorting machine. The group continued tour in a counter clockwise fashion. Members were shown the study rooms, the Creation Station for film and graphic needs, conference rooms that can be reserved by the public, MakerSpace, which will offer arts classes, and the Children section that includes an area for story time. Members returned to the meeting room after completing the tour with the Teen section.

**Board Action: FY26 Budget Review Sub-Committee Selection**

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The Library Advisory Board Chair Megan Bob, opened the floor for three members to form a FY26 Library Budget Review Subcommittee. Jody Mindel, Sherry Albury and Catherine North volunteered to serve on the budget subcommittee. The committee will meet on Monday, February 24 at 2:00 pm. The location has yet to be determined. Members will be notified of the location once it is confirmed. The subcommittee members will be sent a copy of the proposed budget report to review before the February meeting. The subcommittee will then report their recommendations at the March 3, 2025 L.A.B meeting.

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**Librarian's Report:** *Douglas Crane*

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Renovations to the Main Library's lower level, main meeting room, and headquarters area were delayed. Administration hopes to see the project started by April.

Deployment of new self-checkout machines to all branch locations is complete.

The Library's Finance and Facilities Division is working on the FY2026 Budget Proposal. The department will not have an official drafted report until guidance and feedback are provided by County Administration.

**Legislative Update:** *Douglas Crane*

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The elected legislative delegates will hold committee weeks in Tallahassee, Florida. This year's session opens in the month of March. The anticipated topics of conversation are hurricane relief, condo issues, and possibly needed fiscal budget restraints due to the depletion of pandemic relief funds. Palm Beach County Administration will host its PBC Day at the State Capitol on March 5.

Two House Bills (HB) of interest that are going through the House of Representatives are the "flag" bill and "presidential library" bill. HB 75 "Display of Flags by Governmental Entities" which will prohibit governmental entities from erecting or displaying certain flags that are not the United States, State of Florida or military flag. Uncertainty of the exact nuisances to the word "display". It poses the question on whether it is considered illegal if a book or a poster with the image of a flag is displayed in a government building. The House "Presidential Library" Bill permits the construction of a presidential library without interference from local government. If the bill passes it will prohibit any county, local, or even state entity from enforcing their regulations or ordinances. Both House Bills are projected to effect the County and/or the Library System.

Once President Donald Trump are sworn in later this month, the federal government will assuredly focus on cutting federal expenditure. The impression is that services and programs that normally receive federal financial assistance such as the Museum of Library Services and the Library Service Technology Assistance (LSTA) will be effected.

**Items from Staff:**

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None.

**Items from the Board:**

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PBC Channel 20 January 2025 Program Guide features a photo of Dewey the Owl with an announcement of the Canyon Branch Library Grand Opening.

League of Women Voters will hold its Annual Fundraiser on February 26, 2025. Katie Phang, MSNBC Anchor and Robert Watson, Author and Historian are the invited guest speakers for the event. Visit the [website](#) for more information and/or to register.

Meeting concluded with all members expressing appreciation of the presentation and enjoyment of the building tour.

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*The motion for adjournment was made by Jodi Mindell, seconded by Sherry Albury. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:25 pm.*



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Giselle L. Badillo  
Administrative Assistant III

**\*\*\* The next regular meeting: February 10, 2025 at the Library Annex Facility\*\*\***