

**HEARTLAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
GOVERNING BOARD**

Lake Placid Government Center – Community Meeting Room
1069 US Hwy. 27 N., Lake Placid, FL

Minutes to the May 19, 2021 meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Donna Storter-Long. Invocation was led by Donna Storter-Long. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sue Rood.

ROLL CALL:

Governing Board Members Present: Donna Storter-Long Chair Glades County; Sue Rood Vice-Chair Highlands County; Jeanette Peeples Glades County; Ann Ryals Desoto County; Jeannie Palacios Hardee County (vote by proxy); Margaret Dewey Highlands County; Arlene Tuck Commissioner Highlands; Ingra Gardner Highlands County; Denise Whitehead Okeechobee County (vote by proxy); Sonya Chapa Assistant Coordinator Heartland; Vikki Brown Coordinator Heartland.

Also Present: Linda Waters Librarian DeSoto County.

Absent: Brad Goodbread Commissioner Okeechobee County; Judy Schaefer Commissioner DeSoto County; Mandy Hines Desoto County; Julie Perry Glades County; Fran Syfrett Okeechobee County; Nicole Drake Hardee County; Rene Wyatt Commissioner Hardee County;

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

Notice of Public Meeting: Notice was properly given.

Additions to Agenda: There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda: Vikki Brown asked that the financial statements be added to the agenda. Motion to accept the agenda with the change was made by Sue Rood, seconded by Donna Storter-Long, unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to accept minutes made by Donna Storter-Long, seconded by Margaret Dewey, unanimously passed.

Notice of Vote by Proxy: Vikki Brown announced two votes by proxy for Denise Whitehead and Jeannie Palacios. Quorum has been met with these votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

LSTA Grant Update & Device Demonstration:

Vikki Brown gave a presentation on some of the tools and devices purchased for the Heartland Cooperative with the LSTA Tails and Tales Grant. Vikki demonstrated the Osmo Story program on an iPad which allows children to create their own illustration and guides them through the

story making process. Donna Storter-Long asked if the devices were able to be checked out by patrons. Vikki explained that these devices are shared among all seven libraries in the cooperative and are intended for use in programs and classes. She explained the purpose of the grant is to provide new technology and opportunities for patrons. Donna asked if the noise of the technology would be disruptive to other patrons in the Library. Vikki informed her that most Libraries will have a special area and time for these technologies to be used. Donna asked how many of the iPads were available. Vikki said that twenty devices had been purchased.

Website Update:

Vikki Brown informed the board of the new Heartland Cooperative website update. The site has a new look and layout, increasing functionality and providing a more modern appearance. Vikki stated that she and Sonya Chapa were very excited that this updated launch was able to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the cooperative. Donna Storter-Long asked if the website was ADA compliant, citing legal troubles that many counties in Florida endured in the recent past with ADA suits filed against their websites. Vikki stated that this was kept in mind by our IT personnel when designing the update and that the site has been tested for ADA compliancy and has passed; she also stated that all posts are run through ADA testing before being added to the website.

25th Anniversary Celebration Update:

Vikki Brown provided some examples of the digital and virtual posts and activities that were used to celebrate the Heartland Cooperative's 25th anniversary online. Vikki stated that although celebrations had to be adjusted and scaled back due to COVID constraints, there are plans for bigger celebrations on the 30th anniversary of the cooperative.

State Aid Update:

Vikki Brown informed the governing board that half of the payment from State Aid has been received and has cleared. There is currently no set date on when the second half of the payment will be received. Donna Storter-Long asked when we would be notified if we were not expected to receive a second payment due to funding issues; Vikki stated that we would already have been notified if we were not going to receive the second half as the issue only involves the exact amount of payment.

New LSTA Grant Info:

Vikki Brown informed the governing board of a new grant application that was submitted by the Heartland Library Cooperative. This application, titled "Reaching Beyond Our Walls", will include video equipment and software to help expand digital and virtual programs that can be later adapted to in person programs. Sue Rood asked when we would be informed about the grant award; Vikki stated that grant selection meetings would be next week. Vikki also informed the board that last year, the Heartland Cooperative did not make the cut during the selection

meeting, but were later awarded the grant due to increased funding and that this may happened again this year depending on funding opportunities.

Logo Results & Board Approval:

Vikki Brown presented the logo design that was created based on input from all Heartland Library Cooperative staff after many different logos and variations; the final choices were put forth for voting from the public. Donna Storter-Long asked if any of the logo designs were a clear winner based on votes. Vikki showed the design that led which is a version with the state of Florida in blue. Sue Rood asked if the governing board would like to vote on the design. Margaret moved to accept the new logo as the official logo of the Heartland Library Cooperative; Donna seconded, unanimously passed. Sue asked if new library cards would need to be ordered with the new logo. Vikki informed her that there are still a lot of former library cards left from the last order, but once those run out new cards with the new logo will be distributed. Sue asked if all of the libraries will be posting the logo. Vikki said each library will be posting the logo on their marketing at their own preference.

Member Updates:

Donna Storter-Long was glad to announce the new Librarian in Glades County, Iris Perkins. Vikki Brown informed the board that she assisted with the interviews for Librarian candidates and that it was a close call between two applicants. She said she is happy the position is filled and looks forward to working with Iris in the future.

Jeannette Peebles stated that she was also happy to have a new Librarian in Glades County.

Sonya Chapa gave a thank you to all of the Heartland Librarians for continuing to serve the communities and help the Library succeed during a very tough year. Sonya also thanks the governing board members along with the Librarians for all of their support in Vikki Brown and herself as the new leadership during a very different year.

Linda Waters stated that it was a different year but it was a good you and thanks the Cooperative leaders, Vikki Brown and Sonya Chapa, for their support.

Margaret Dewey informed the governing board that the local Friends of the Library group is struggling to find staffing for the full five days per week as there has been a shortage of volunteers.

Ingra Gardner advised Margaret to reach out to the RSVP organization for volunteers. Ingra also thanked Vikki Brown for her leadership in the Heartland Cooperative and Highlands Library System. Ingra stated that the Library has done amazingly thanks to Vikki's ideas, contributions, and leadership.

Financial Statements:

Vikki Brown stated that there was nothing new to discuss regarding the financial statements, however she did include them in the meeting packet for the board member's reference. Vikki asked if there were any questions or comments at the time; there were none from the board members. Vikki stated that the board members can reach out to her at any time with questions.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 25th at 10:30 a.m. (After this meeting, the date was rescheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021).

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Chapa