

## **Clewiston Library Board Minutes**

### **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

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#### **Opening Remarks**

- A. The Clewiston Library Advisory Board was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Toni Couse at the Clewiston Public Library.

#### **Roll Call of Members**

- A. **Present:** Natasha Hayes, Toni Couse, Frank Harris, Mike Galassini, Mary Thomas, Cindy Carroll, and Dr. Laura Jones. **Absent:** Cathy Metz.

#### **Minutes from Last Meeting**

- A. A motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on September 3, 2025 was made by Frank Harris and seconded by Mike Galassini. The motion was carried.

#### **Treasurers Report**

- A. Mr. Harris reported that the balance is \$5,594.62 as of the latest bank statement dated for August 2025. There are a couple items outstanding, therefore the actual balance is \$5,890.34.

#### **Director's Report**

- A. Library Statistics & Calendars- Library statistics were provided via an Excel spreadsheet which explains/depicts the circulation counts of library materials, items cataloged/removed, programs, door count, and more. Monthly activity calendars were provided which provided detail on what programs had occurred throughout the past three months.

#### **Old Business**

- A. New Library Funding
  - 1. Room to Read Grant-Suncoast Credit Union has \$10,000 available for Hendry and Glades County Libraries. Each library branch will receive \$2,500.00 to spend throughout Fall and Spring for literacy events.
  - 2. STEAM Grant-The Collabotory in Ft. Myers provided \$2,332.00 in funding this past summer for STEAM programs. These funds were put to great use and many new presenters filled the Clewiston Public Library's summer calendar this year.
- B. Adult Programming
  - 1. Coffee with the Chief-Due to the resignation of Chief Lewis, this program was canceled this month.
  - 2. Hurricane Preparedness- Robert Pastula prepared a workshop for the Clewiston Library but due to the weather that evening, the attendance was low. Those in attendance voted to have him return at a later date to present his information to the community.
- C. Summer Reading Program
  - 1. This summer was extremely busy with a wide variety of programs for all ages.
  - 2. The Reading Program began on June 4<sup>th</sup> and ran each Wednesday until July 30<sup>th</sup>. Programs were held at 10 a.m. which consisted of the Palm Beach Opera, Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, Marionette Show, Out of My Hands Juggling, Nature with CROW, and SciArt Spectacular.
  - 3. Monday Movie Madness was also held a 1 p.m. each Monday with fresh popcorn to the attendees.
  - 4. Various other STEAM and hands on programs were held all summer long.

#### **New Business**

- A. Author Visit-Joe Palmer, *A Mariner's Tale*, will be hosting a special engagement on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
  - 1. Lit. Grant Funds-Room to Read grant funds will be able to cover this programs fees.
- B. Halloween Contest and Sleepover-the Clewiston Library will hold a contest this Halloween for the children and look in to having a teddy bear sleepover.
- C. Cooperative Budget-the Hendry County Library Cooperative Board voted at their last meeting in August to increase the Admin/10% fee this year to 25%. This increase will help cover the salary of the Cooperative Director.
- D. Alcohol Events-City Manager, Danny Williams, will approve the Friends to offer to wine at the Author Visit with Joe Palmer.
- E. Fireman Books/Donations-a \$50.00 donation was received in memory of Jeff Edwards and those funds were used to purchase new books related to fire trucks.
- F. ILL's-the State of Florida no longer has the budget to cover the costs associated with shipping ILL's as of September 30, 2025. This is a huge loss for our libraries and communities as it truly limits what our patrons are able to access.
  - 1. Hendry County Legislative Delegation Meeting-Labelle 1:30 p.m. City Hall-if anyone would like to attend this meeting and express their opinions related to ILL's, this meeting would be the place to do so.
- G. Chamber Social-December/January-Library Director Hayes will be reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce to secure a month to host their Chamber Social.
- H. City Vacancies-Human Resources/Recreation Director, City Clerk, and Chief of Police.

**Date for Next Meeting**

The next Clewiston Library Advisory Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

**Public Remarks**

None.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.