

Clewiston Library Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

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 Collaboratory 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 4th and ran each Wednesday until July 30th. 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 22nd 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 18th at 5 p.m.

Public Remarks

None.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.