

APALACHICOLA MARGARET KEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board

~ Mission Statement ~

"The Apalachicola Margaret Key Library contributes to a healthy, vibrant community by helping citizens create and live their best life."

Meeting Location:

Old Library Building

Meeting was called to order by Sondra Taylor-Furbee, Chairperson, at 5:03 pm

Voting Board Members Present:

Dolores Croom

Jerry Hurley

Sondra Taylor-Furbee

Ex-Officio Members and Others Present:

Liz Perkins, PALS Representative

Karen Kessel, Philaco Club Representative

Adriane Elliott, City Commissioner

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented

Director's Report:

Submitted by Isel Sanchez-Whiteley

March 2025 Statistics: - 3,135 patrons visited our library!!! - 16 new accounts opened

– 266 patrons used our computers - 583 books/movies/items circulated - 314 items donated to the library

- \$577.06 collected as library revenue – 79 hours donated by our wonderful volunteers

– 11,657 people viewed our social media posts

Happy Spring from the library! March at the library is a time to celebrate Spring's arrival, Women's History Month, and St. Patrick's Day, and we do this with our book displays. Stop by and pick up a new author! We miss our beloved Library Director, Lucy Carter, and continue to wish her a full recovery. The library is a warm, welcoming place for the citizens and visitors of our community. We have something for everyone and are always willing to help with government and technical issues.

The March calendar was full of interesting events. PALS Book Sale was a huge success! So many people left with bags full of wonderful books! A Library STEAM Session event organized by PALS volunteer Rich Lenhart, made for an exciting afternoon, with kids experimenting with a vacuum chamber. He also hosted an all-ages Chess Club. The library enjoyed another fly-fishing round table this month, tying flies with Captain Daniel Davidson and Shan Raetzloff.

PALS member, Connie Justice, hosted two fun, crafting afternoons. Young patrons made springtime baskets and painted wooden eggs. United Way/VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers continue to prepare tax returns for FREE for anyone in the community that makes less than \$64,000/year. New this month is Writing Group, a memoir short story writing class led by Leslie Lewin. The class meets twice a month for the next two months.

Again, there is something for everyone. We invite you to come in, grab a calendar, a free cup of coffee or tea, a few books, a puzzle, and enjoy fellowship with other library visitors.

Your City of Apalachicola Library helps with reading, writing, and learning, and offers a suite of print/copy/scan/fax/and notary services. We loan FREE books, movies, puzzles, board games, and items from our Library of Things, and offer FREE audio books, e-books, and digital magazines through the Libby app. We also have a Book sale space on-site with FREE magazines. We also offer Yoga weekly (in a by-donation class) on Mondays @ 6:15pm, Bring Me A Book Forgotten Coast hosts 'Books for Babies' weekly on Tuesday mornings @ 10:30am, and Mahjong meets on Wednesday and Fridays mornings @10. Our once-a-month Book Club meets each 3rd Wednesday @ 6pm; and Homework Help (FREE tutoring!) is by appointment.

PALS Report:

Submitted by Liz Perkins

March & April 2025 activities (since 3/11/25)

PALS Spring Book Sale 3/15

Spring Break Craft Activities 3/18 & 3/20

STEAM activity 3/28

Homework Help & Free Tax Prep

Handled the library's social media accounts, graphic design, and web page updating through 4/14. Isel will take over most library FB posting as of 4/15.

April Craft activity 4/15

Upcoming April

Classic Movie Night 4/15

STEAM activity 4/25

Landscape Plan

Commissioner Anthony Croom has recently been in touch about moving forward with the paving portion of the library's landscape plan.

I have sent emails (including a copy of the plan, an explanation and an offer to meet) to a list of interested parties. People I have contacted include: City Commissioners Anita Grove, Despina George, Donna Duncan, and Adriane Elliott; City Planner Bree Robinson, City Manager Michael Brillhart; County Coordinator Michael Móron, County Fiscal Manager Erin Griffith; Sam & Liz Berkheiser. Sondra Taylor-Furbee has agreed to accompany me to any meetings as a representative of the library and Greg Gologowski, a retired city planner will be joining us from the PALS board.

Philaco Club Support

Karen Kessel reported that the Philaco Club has approved four \$1,000 scholarships be given to local students for the next year.

Old Business:

Liz Perkins, PALS Representative, ask if the board would consider a formal approval and support of the PALS' landscaping proposal that will go before the city commission in May. The board moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the support of the proposal.

New Business:

The board discussed impact that a possible four day school week might have on the library and how staff would be able to handle the increased number of students in the library. The board agreed (no formal motion or vote) that all students should have library cards with contact information available or other contact information in case of an emergency.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2025, 5:00pm.