

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 5:02 pm

Voting Board Members Present:

Dolores Croom

Jerry Hurley

Sondra Taylor-Furbee

Ralph Wagoner

Ex-Officio Members and Others Present:

Liz Perkins, PALS Representative

Isel Sanchez-Whiteley, Library Staff

Karen Kessel, Philaco Club Representative

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented

Director's Report:

August 2025 Statistics:

- 1783 patrons visited our library - 5 new accounts opened
- 277 patrons used our computers - 509 books/movies/items circulated
- 325 items donated to the library - \$459.43 collected as library revenue – 41 hours donated by our wonderful volunteers
- 14,003 people reached on social media

It's been another exciting month at the library! With the school year now underway, a new rhythm is settling in, and we are here to support students and families. We have expanded our after-school activities to give kids and teens more ways

to unwind and explore. From teen coloring and puzzles to games and creative crafts, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Don't forget—we also offer free tutoring! Our dedicated PALS volunteers are available for one-on-one support to help students succeed in the subjects they need most. Stop by the library or give us a call to request tutoring assistance. This month, PALS volunteer Richard Lenhart hosted a fun and educational StompRocket STEAM event that had kids laughing, learning, and launching! It was a blast—literally! Come see what is happening next. There's always something new to discover at the library.

We welcome out-of-town visitors! We invite you to come in, grab a calendar, a free cup of coffee or tea, a few books, 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. All donations go to our Friends of the Library group, PALS. Free Legal Help through volunteers from Legal Services of Northwest Florida is available on the first Thursday of each month; appointments are required. 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.

PALS Report:

Activities since May 13, 2025

We are very grateful that Mollie Hill has agreed to join the PALS board.

PALS volunteers helped host the Summer Reading Kickoff Party on June 5 and paid for the fruit skewers and vegetables with dip.

PALS volunteers Bonnie Lewis, Connie Justice, and Mollie Hill have helped with a number of Summer Reading craft and art activities.

Liz helped with the library's graphic design and handled the web page updating.

The spring newsletter came out on May 18th.

We ordered \$490 of school supplies and tie-dye supplies to be used at the Summer Reading Closeout Party on July 30th.

Rich trimmed the trees and bushes outside the library building.

Other routine activities such as straightening the shelves and working the desk.

Online Book Store

Since May 13, we have sold and mailed out 42 books purchased on our eBay site. Ellie Bissen helped mail out books while Liz was on vacation—11 in three weeks!

Money from online sales goes directly into the PALS checking account to be used for library activities and purchases.

Hundreds, if not thousands of books are donated to the library every year. Celia, Isel,

and Liz sort through them to determine which can sell for at least \$15, including shipping. We are always looking for old books in good condition.

City Hall Storage

Rich and Liz rented a storage unit on Bluff Road and Rich moved the library's seasonal items and leftover construction materials out there in time to vacate City Hall.

PALS Treasurer Rich Lenhart has one key and the second key was given to the library.

Library Landscape Plan

Dewberry Engineering is still working on the bid specifications for paving the parking lot.

Erin Griffin, the County's Fiscal Manager, has asked for an update.

Liz, Greg, and Mollie need to meet with the new interim City Manager to discuss the courtyard phase.

Old Business:

Jerry Hurley asked for an update on the possibility of using a community member for the library board that was currently a member of another board. Sondra agreed to follow up with the city.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting in August, the next meeting will be September 9, 2025.