

**Library Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting  
January, 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 1:00 PM  
Bay County Public Library  
Meeting Room**

Members in Attendance:

Kendall Middlemas Henley: Bay County Commission, District 2  
Jean Campbell: Bay County Commissioner Crosby, District 3  
Crystal Grey-Hewett: Bay County Commissioner Moore, District 4  
Jeff DiBenedictis: Bay County Commissioner Pease, District 5  
Fran Davis: Liberty County Commission

Members Absent:

Gerry Wilson: Bay County Commissioner Raffield, District 1  
Mary Gibson: Gulf County Commission

Library Staff in Attendance:

Robin Shader: Library Director  
Ashley Burlon: Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator  
Logan Clampitt: Administrative and Financial Manager  
Tania Watts: Head of Youth Services  
Ann Howard: Manager, Panama City Beach Library

Call to Order: Chair Jeff DiBenedictis called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 13, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

- a) Library Hours Change Update

Library Director Robin Shader gave an update on the reduction in operating hours at the PCB Library and both Gulf County Libraries. Budget shortfalls led to a reduction in staff in those locations. PCB Library reduced hours by 3 each week, closing at 5 pm instead of 6 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Gulf County reduced Saturday hours and will alternate which library is open for 4 hours on Saturdays. Ann Howard, PCB Library Manager, mentioned that there are not many new patrons arriving in the hour between 5-6 pm, which is why those hours were selected for the reduction.

New Business:

- a) Election of Officers

After a brief discussion, **Fran Davis moved to re-elect Jeff DiBenedictis to the Chair position, seconded by Jean Campbell. The motion carried 4-0. Jeff DiBenedictis moved to re-elect Fran as the Vice Chair, seconded by Crystal Grey-Hewett. The motion carried 4-0.**

Director's Report:

- a) Library Highlights

The state will receive federal funding to continue the Interlibrary Loan program, and so library staff will meet soon to discuss reactivating the service at NWRLS.

A Career Online High School graduation ceremony is scheduled for January 15. Jeff DiBenedictis, on behalf of the E. F. Hickey, Jr. Trust, donated an additional \$25,000 to fund additional scholarships for this program.

Fran Davis asked how people find out about the program. Robin mentioned that there is a link online, and many people use word of mouth to advertise the program.

Robin spoke about usage of the OverDrive digital collection, which is up 13% compared to last year. Some locations are seeing a decrease in the number of physical items being borrowed, but this could be due to an increase in digital checkouts. Digital usage reports cannot show which branch a user is associated with, so library staff completed a project to manually review each patron who used the digital collection between January and March 2025. Results were, of the 4,309 users during that time period: 57% were BCPL patrons, 31% PCB, 2% Parker, 8% PSJ, 1% Wewahitchka, 1% Bristol and 0% Hosford.

b) Program Updates

Ashley Burlon, Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator, spoke about upcoming programs including the January 10 astronomy event for all ages, featuring presenters from the Department of Defense and Tyndall Air Force Base. The program will include prize giveaways, NASA coins, and water coloring events.

Ashley also mentioned the Tuesdays at 2 program series which is starting back up soon. On February 3 there will be a presentation on the rebuilding Tyndall AFB after Hurricane Michael.

On Sunday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, the Friends of the Bay County Public Libraries is hosting a Jane Austen fundraiser for \$75 per ticket.

Board Comments/Announcements: Jeff invited new member Kendall Middlemas Henley to introduce herself.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Next regular meeting: March 12, 2026, 1 pm.