

**Library Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
May 21st 2026 @ 1:00 PM
Bay County Public Library
Meeting Room**

Members in Attendance:

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

Members Absent:

Liberty County Representative - Vacant

Library Staff in Attendance:

Robin Shader: Library Director
Ashley Burlon: Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator
Logan Clampitt: Administrative and Financial Manager

Call to Order: Call to order by Jeff DiBenedictis at 1:02 pm

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: **Jeff DiBenedictis made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8 and March 12 regular meetings and the January 8 and February 26 book challenge appeal hearings. Kendall Middlemas Henley seconded. Motion was adopted.**

Old Business:

- a. No old business.

New Business:

- a. Vice Chair Vacancy
Fran Davis took a job in Liberty County at the library, so she was required to resign her seat on the committee and, therefore, her spot as the Vice Chair is vacant. The Liberty County Board of County Commissioners will appoint a new representative. **Jeff DiBenedictis made a motion to appoint Crystal Grey-Hewett as Vice Chair, seconded by Kendall Middlemas Henley. Motion was adopted.**
- b. New Citizen Board Ordinance
Robin explained there is a new citizen board ordinance aimed at setting standards for citizen boards created by Bay County. Changes to current LAC practices are: (1) Committee members will need to determine if absences are excused. After two unexcused absences, a member will be removed from the committee; and (2) The Chairman is required to present an annual report. Robin will write up a summary that gives instructions on exactly what to do. Other requirements in the ordinance are already followed by the board, such as including a public comment period and indicating in the minutes whether a quorum was established.

c. Reconsideration & Appeal Process Review

Robin led a discussion about the reconsideration and appeal process and if any changes were recommended. Jeff says the process was smoother than anticipated and does not see any changes needed. The board agrees that they like having a committee member involved in the initial challenge review. Robin expressed appreciation for the committee members' participation in the process.

d. Review *Computer & Internet Use Policy*

Robin summarized the changes. A sentence was removed and the other change removed specific costs for printing, since that is subject to change. **Mary Gibson moved to accept the changes to the *Computer & Internet Use Policy*, seconded by Gerry Wilson. Motion was adopted.**

Director's Report:

a) Library Highlights

Robin provided some highlights of library activities, including the presentation of the Clifford Chester Sims memorial bronze bust at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe. Mr. Sims was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who was born in Port St. Joe. Other highlights included library usage statistics. Overall, there is an increase in checkouts, visits, and library cards.

b) Program Updates

Ashley spoke about National Library Week and related programs, including flamingo hunts and giveaways. There was a significant increase in library visits during National Library Week compared to last year. In April, the Mobile Library participated in the Gulf Coast Salute Airshow at Pier Park, and spoke with 900 people in over 2 days. A STEM activity, telescope viewings (with a solar filter) and book giveaways were offered. The upcoming Summer Reading Program from June – August includes over 230 programs across all 7 libraries. Ashley is also planning a program for Bay County Library's 85th anniversary.

Board Comments/Announcements:

Mary Gibson mentioned that the Gulf County Friends will attend an upcoming Gulf County Commission meeting and plan to request an increase in funding for the libraries. Mary requested the library budget request.

The committee discussed whether to hold the July LAC meeting. **Jeff DiBenedictis made a motion to cancel the July 6 meeting, seconded by Crystal Grey-Hewett. Motion was adopted.** The next meeting will be September 10th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Next regular meeting: September 10th, 2026, 1 pm.