Library Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2026 @ 1:00 PM
Bay County Public Library
Meeting Room

Members in Attendance:

Jean Campbell: Bay County Commissioner Crosby, District 3
Crystal Grey-Hewett: Bay County Commissioner Moore, District 4
Gerry Wilson: Bay County Commissioner Raffield, District 1
Mary Gibson: Gulf County Commission
Kendall Middlemas Henley: Bay County Commission, District 2

Members Absent:

Jeff DiBenedictis: Bay County Commissioner Pease, District 5

Library Staff in Attendance:

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Crystal Grey-Hewett at 1:05 pm. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: **Crystal Grey-Hewett made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21st regular meeting. Gerry Wilson seconded. Motion was adopted.**

Old Business:

a. No old business.

New Business:

a. Library Budget Requests

Robin explained that Liberty County is providing the same amount of funding as the current year, but that the amount of state aid is projected to be half the expected amount. Liberty County has unused funds from previous years that will balance the budget for FY 26 and FY 27.

Gulf County agreed to the requested 5% increase. The City of PSJ has pledged $15,000. These increases should allow the PSJ library to fill the vacant 8-hour position.

Robin explained the idea from the PCB Council to possibly remove some of the books and use that portion of the building for parks and rec programs. Several community members spoke out against the idea and city leadership decided not to pursue it. The City of PCB increased the library budget by 3%, which was less than the 5.8% requested.

Parker is giving the same amount as the current year, but the mayor indicated he might give an additional amount from discretionary funds.

The Bay County Library budget is about $51,000 less than the current year. Robin mentioned that although there is a significant reduction in book funds, the library will still have a sizable budget for new materials.

b. Amendment 3

The Committee and staff members discussed what might happen if Amendment 3 passes. Staff has been instructed to refer patrons to the document provided by Bay County for more information, since staff cannot tell citizens how to vote. Robin spoke about potential negative impacts for libraries, including that some could close. The Bay County Friends have been very proactive in educating the public on the negative impacts of the amendment on libraries. Jennifer Ivy mentioned that the law might not allow the library to receive money, and it has to go to other services. The League of Women Voters and other organizations have come out in opposition to Amendment 3 and are and are working to educate citizens across the state. Sarah Burris with the Friends group is connecting with other groups around the state to talk about the amendment and is creating yard signs for people. Kendall mentioned how this amendment is not just harmful to libraries, but other departments could be eliminated.

Director's Report

a) Library Highlights

Robin provided usage statistics: borrowed items are up 2%, and digital use continues to grow. Patron visits are up 7% and the number of library card holders is up 1%. The summer reading program went well, with over 2,000 program attendees in Bay, over 1,000 in Gulf, and about 100 in Liberty. Robin also mentioned increased outreach with the Mobile Library, ESL classes continue to be well attended, and the Flybrary at the airport continues to be popular. Robin also mentioned the donation of 250 boxes of books from The Book Bin used book store that went out of business.

b) Program Updates

Ashley mentioned the 85th birthday of the Bay County Public Library. Ashley has been uploading statistics on Facebook to hope people realize how important the library is. As of the end of August, there have been over 250,000 visits over the past year in all of the libraries combined, about 1,100 programs with good attendance, and 550,000 items have been borrowed, including digital titles. Our social media presence has been increased with the libraries in all counties.

Board Comments/Announcements:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:54.

Next regular meeting: November 12th, 2026, 1 pm.