

**St. Johns County Public Library Advisory Board**  
**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Anastasia Island Library**

**LAB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carolee Bertisch  
Kathy Dvornick  
Martha Drabiski  
Pat Laurencelle  
George Minton  
Marilyn Wiles  
Bill Napper

**STAFF PRESENT**

Debra Rhodes Gibson, Library Director  
Jae Bass, Technical Services Administrator  
Betty Ann Frederick, Extension Services Manager  
Angelina Gervasi, Office Coordinator  
Valerie Peischel Mull, Main Library Branch Manager  
Harold George, Anastasia Island Branch Manager

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator  
Regina Ross, Assistant County Attorney

**GUESTS PRESENT**

David Farah, Anastasia Island FOL President

• **Call to Order**

Carolee Bertisch, LAB Chair, called meeting to order at 9:30 am

• **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Bertisch confirmed with Library Director, Debra Rhodes Gibson, that the April Minutes had been approved electronically. Director Gibson agreed.

• **Internet Filtering Discussion/Code of Patron Conduct policy (with Legal representative)**

Library Director Gibson and LAB members talked about drafts of the revised policies sent out earlier in the week. St. Johns County Legal representative Regina Ross, suggested the Library look at other Florida county library policies that would allow staff to shut down the session if the patron is viewing pornography. Ms. Ross also spoke of amending the Patron Code of Conduct by adding the phrase "habitual offender", giving staff the right to terminate the person's computer session and could possibly result in permanent loss of computer privileges or have civil action taken against them.

Brendan O'Connell, 10 Oceanside Drive: Commented that the policy should say pornography is prohibited. Carolee Bertisch referred Mr. O'Connell to the Code of Patron Conduct policy I-C-1 number seven (7) under THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS AND FORMS OF CONDUCT NOT PERMITTED. *"Using any Library resources to gain access o material deemed illegal, pornographic, and/or obscene."* LAB members discussed moving up number seven (7) in Code of Patron Conduct policy to number one (1). Jerry Cameron Assistant County Administrator stated he saw no problem with putting signage out to forewarn patrons against viewing pornography and to list number seven (7) as number one (1). Dr. Patricia Laurencelle opposed to the signage.

Mr. O'Connell commented that 83% of porn could be blocked by filters and why weren't we filtering like other counties in Florida. Mr. O'Connell also expressed concern about staff making a decision on what is and isn't pornography and how this could violate law. Mr. Cameron asked Mr. O'Connell why Mr. O'Connell objected to staff filtering but not electronic filtering. Mr. O'Connell replied that he relies on

technology. Mr. Cameron stated that ultimately it's a human's decision as to what is blocked, whether it's done by staff or technology.

Sharon Dixon, St. Augustine: Expressed concerns about children coming across pornography on the internet and asked why the library didn't filter. Ms. Bertisch replied they believe in the freedom of information. Ms. Dixon had concerns about staff not watching the children and asked Valerie Peischel Mull if someone was in the children's area at all times. Ms. Mull replied the librarians are there to help with information and not act in place of the parent.

Ms. Bertisch excused herself and reminded the public that the LAB members did not hold an obligation to let them comment.

Susan Flynn, 18 Sandpiper Drive: Stated that in her experience as a librarian and as a branch manager she had minute problems with people viewing pornography. Ms. Flynn stated the new policy is an elegant solution and filtering does not work and would create more problems for the library.

Faith Mantia, 24 Matanzas Circle: Miss Mantia shared an incident that occurred at the library that made her feel uncomfortable. Miss Mantia also expressed that she was for filtering.

David Farah, 621 Casa Fuerta Lane: Stated that children should go to an adult if they feel uncomfortable and parents should educate their children to keep themselves protected. Mr. Farah also stated that filtering will give a false sense of security and the library cannot afford it with the budget restraints.

Edward Mulvey, 10 Ocean Trace Road: Asked why the library is rejecting filtering when it's virtually cost free. Mr. Mulvey also expressed concerns about staff approaching customers.

Terry Ruen, 3245 Coastal Highway: Expressed concerns about what young people are seeing at the library and it not being policed. Mr. Ruen asked the Board why they do not filter.

LAB members discussed more on the cost of filtering per branch:

- I. \$12,000.00 a year for wireless per branch
- II. \$2,300.00 a year to license for the whole library system
- III. \$14,000.00 a year for staff time

Jae Bass Technical Services Administrator talked on the subject of E-Rate and how the \$3,000.00 in discounts is not a lump sum check. The discounts are applied to our monthly bills. It was discussed that all branches have laptops which require wireless and if the library does not have the funds for the \$12,000.00 per branch to include wireless, people could access what they want with the library's laptops and on their personal computers/devices.

Mr. Minton motioned to accept the revised Code of Patron Conduct and Ms. Wiles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill Napper moved to approve Public Computer Use policy with the addition of number seven (7) from Code of Patron Conduct phrasing added under LIMITS TO INTERNET ACCESS. Dr. Laurencelle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Napper motioned to approve the Public Internet Use policy with the understanding that the Main Library will have an internet filtering trial period not to exceed a year with staff recording incidents so they know whether the filtering is a success. Mr. Minton seconded the motion. Ms. Drabiski moved to divide amendment. Ms. Wiles, Mr. Minton, and Dr. Laurencelle were in favor of separating the amendment. Mr. Napper, Ms. Dvornick, and Ms. Drabiski were in favor of keeping the original motion intact. Voting was three (3) to three (3) the motion failed. Mr. Napper made the motion to accept the Public Internet Use policy amended; Mr. Minton seconded. Ms. Wiles and Dr. Laurencelle opposed. Vote

was four (4) to two (2) motion passed. Dr. Laurencelle commented that human and professional filtering works. She also said she is not in favor of filtering software and will never approve the use of electronic filtering in the library.

- **Public Comment**

Brendan O'Connell commented that the library doesn't care. Ms. Wiles stated that she was offended by Mr. O'Connell's comment that they didn't care. Ms. Wiles also stated that it is the LAB's job to listen to all of the concerns of the citizens and respond in a responsible way.

Ron Dury, St. Augustine: Expressed concerns of a librarian having to make a decision when a customer is viewing a questionable website.

David Farah thanked the LAB for being responsible and listening to everyone's comments.

- **Conversation with FOL**

David Farah, President of Anastasia Island FOL, spoke of Anastasia Island Library being a family and team. Mr. Farah shared highlights regarding the recent FOL book sale and that it was the biggest sale ever. Mr. Farah talked about the partnership between R.B. Hunt Elementary and the Anastasia Island Branch Library providing free books as incentive to complete their Accelerated Reader program. He also commented on the new bench outside by the fountain, new display case, and the redesign of the circulation desk.

- **Library Directors Report**

Mr. Napper asked Director Gibson why some numbers were down and suggested asking the branch managers. Ms. Mull commented that it may be because people are being blocked due to fines. Ms. Wiles inquired about how the new library cards are selling. It was stated that the library is slowly selling the new cards.

- **Old Business**

LAB By-Laws: Ms. Wiles made the motion to accept the document with amendments. Mr. Minton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **New Business**

Demonstration of CardStar app: Director Gibson and Ms. Bass explained how library users can put their library barcode into this app and have their phone scanned at the circulation desk to check out items. This is another example of the Library System listening and responding to customer suggestions.

- **Chairman/Board Members Comments**

Ms. Bass commented on Overdrive and the Library will "go live" with E-Books on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

LAB talked about the procedure for the trial internet filtering. LAB also talked about obtaining statistics from other counties regarding filtering. LAB members also requested monthly updates from each branch regarding internet issue.

- **Adjournment**

Mr. Minton made a motion to adjourn meeting and Ms. Wiles seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Minton, Secretary

Angelina Gervasi, Staff Liaison