

**PALM SPRINGS LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**  
**JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2026 6:30PM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Michelle Dunlap, Board Members, Robin Hughes, Lenore DiRienzo, Enrico DiRienzo, Aarika Stacey-Hill  
Staff Liaison: Lauren Bennett, Ashley Calderon and Claudia M. Ruiz.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Michelle Dunlap.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Robin Hughes made a motion to approve. Lenore DiRienzo seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**New Business**

- **Announcement:** Jossie Maliska is no longer with the Village organization, Lauren Bennett is stepping in as the Interim Director.
- **Staff introduction-** Lauren Bennett: Parks and Recreation Assistant Director working for the Village for 2 years now. Extensive Parks and Recreation background, with a Bachelors in Parks and Rec and specialization in event management. Lauren has library experience from her previous position held at City of Lake Worth Beach.  
Ashley Calderon: Children's Librarian. Worked with the Palm Beach County Library system for 11 years that included being the member service supervisor. She also worked for the school district for 4 years and taught elementary children at Pine Jog Elementary. Ashley is now with the Village of Palm springs for 1 year. Ashley is bringing in new ideas and activities for this community.
- Our main book distributor Baker and Taylor, and it is shut down, therefore book orders have been on hold temporarily. We have met with another distributor, *Ingram* and company accounts are now set up. We will be ordering from this new vendor very soon.
- **LibCal** is an online based calendar system specifically for libraries. This will streamline the program's sign-up process & improve efficiency. LibCal will be available on our website and with a click it will redirect users to the calendar. The new software will go be available this year, we are working on the contract and then implementation.
- **Programs updates:** Read Across America will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will be going to C.O. Taylor elementary and Palm Springs Elementary with our reader volunteers.  
We are preparing for this year's Summer Reading Program, this summer the theme is DINOSAURS. We are planning our kickoff party in June and planning the weekly activities.  
STREAM club happens once a month, and it is aligned with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders learning lessons in Palm Springs Elementary, but it is always hands on.  
Children's Book Club is another monthly program it has been a successful program with great numbers of attendees.  
Bilingual Storytime and toddler Storytime continues weekly with great attendance number.  
Palm Springs Literacy Stars program, formerly known as PALs, will be conducted by Michelle who is the Literacy Coordinator. As we do every year, we will bring kids from both local schools and host the program Tuesdays and Wednesday starting early February. We currently have 14 mentors.

- ReThinking Libraries Strategic Plan- The library is member of SEFLIN and they were offering a \$5,000 worth consulting grant and we won. We are 1 out of 6 libraries that were awarded. They will come in and assess the team to guide us & set a Strategic Plan. The focus is rethinking with future-oriented mindset.

### **Old Business**

- Approval of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes approved by Michelle Dunlap and Robin Hugues.

### **Member Comments:**

- During the ReThinking Libraries discussion, one of the members mentioned the value of having our own dedicated website, and sharing reels, videos and other cool & fun stuff. The library staff is thinking of creating some friendly reels out in social media to build community relationships.
- One of the members is asking about Read for the record, and the Children's librarian commented that the big event for us is February 26<sup>th</sup> and we will be reading *See Marcus Grow*. Bridges, Hippy, Palm Springs Library and other community partners will be joining forces to host the event at their Palm Springs location for our community.
- A member asked if the meeting room expansion is still on track and library staff responded that the project is on hold for now.

### **Next Meeting**

- Next meeting will be February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Robin Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Enrico DiRienzo seconded motion: meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Ruiz  
Library Administrative Assistant