



Brevard County Library Services
308 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922
(321) 633-1801

TO: James Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Wendi Bost, Library Services Director *WBS*

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025034

CEER #2025034, titled Reconsideration of County Staff Support to Municipal Advisory Boards, was received by the County from Lori H Alvord.

Citizen Statement:

In May 2022, the Brevard County Board of Commissioners passed a measure that ended Brevard County staff interaction with non-mandatory, advisory boards. This measure ended the long-standing participation of Satellite Beach Public Library staff in the bi-monthly meetings of the Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board.) This injunction applies to all library branches and their interaction with city advisory boards. The County Attorney also decided it applied to county advisory boards – i.e., staff from libraries falling under the Brevard South-Central Library Advisory Board cannot interact with the board or its members.) An advisory board that cannot interact with the entity it has been appointed to support fails to advance our civic society and democracy.

The County Commissioners undertook a review of non-mandatory, advisory boards as many had been dormant during the COVID pandemic. The Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board has, however, been meeting regularly since its establishment under the Satellite Beach City Code, Chapter 10, as amended by Ordinance 908, and as approved by the Satellite Beach City Council on June 15, 2005. Until the change, the board served as a sounding board for Satellite Beach Public Library staff and offered new ideas for programming based on our interaction with and outreach to our community.

The review also sought to reduce costs. The Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board is a completely voluntary board that receives no public funding. It also requires very little time of Satellite Beach Public Library staff – approximately 6-12 hours of time of the Library Director per annum. The board meets every other month in the library community room and during regular library hours – requiring no commuting nor overtime on the part of library staff. Time covers preparation for the meeting, participation in the meeting, and limited follow-up.

Citizen Recommendation:

Recommendation: Repeal the injunction preventing county staff from participating in non-mandatory municipal boards in their official capacities. Reasonable limits to costs and staff time could apply, such as no more than two hours for every scheduled hour of meeting.

As a member of the Satellite Beach Library Advisory board since December 2021, I believe our board has previously added value to our library, city, and county at the very minimal cost of a few hours' time from the Brevard County library staff. This time would also seem to be part of the normal community outreach and communication duties of the Library Director. The current situation has had a negative impact on the Satellite Beach Public Library's connection to the public without commensurate savings. The Satellite Beach Public Library is funded by the taxpayers of Brevard County, which include all members of our advisory board. Municipal boards allow the citizens of smaller communities – such as Satellite Beach and Indian Harbour Beach, whom we also represent – to provide feedback from the public, input into programming, and share information back to our community.

Staff Analysis:

In May 2022, the Board of County Commissioners consolidated the various Library Boards with a final configuration of three Boards: (1) the County Library System Advisory Board, (2) the North Brevard Library Advisory Board, and (3) the South/Central Brevard Public Library Advisory Board. The two regional Library Boards were consolidated to increase efficiency and facilitate communication by combining seven individual Library Boards into two regional Boards. The three Boards have a combined 29 members.

In addition to the three Library Advisory Boards, there are 11 Friends of the Library groups, all volunteer-operated at 11 libraries, that provide feedback to the libraries and contribute over \$150,000 to them.

The Satellite Beach Library Board is a City of Satellite Beach operated Library Board outside the current structure of the three County Library Advisory Boards. All municipalities have elected to dissolve their boards. There is one member from the City of Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board on the South/Central Public Library Advisory Board.

With the two regional advisory boards and the system board, the Library Services Department Director and other Administration staff have been able to attend all Library Boards, which was impossible under the previous structure of Library Advisory Boards. The current advisory board structure has allowed the Boards to learn about the library as a system and are provided with

current information, facts, and data. At all meetings, suggestions and feedback are welcome from the public and Board Members.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2025034 as it does not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County Government as the City of Satellite Beach Library Board is operated separately by the City and the public can provide input at any County Library Advisory Board or speak with Library Services Staff.

c.c. Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025034

Recommendation # 2025034

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025034 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Lori H Alvord
Address	375 Willow Drive, Satellite Beach FL 32937
Phone	(703) 405-6399
Email	lha_ba@yahoo.com
Alternate Email	lha_ba@yahoo.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2025034
Recommendation Title	Reconsideration of County Staff Support to Municipal Advisory Boards
Areas Affected	Non-mandatory Municipal Boards
Department Affected	LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Current problem	<p>In May 2022, the Brevard County Board of Commissioners passed a measure that ended Brevard County staff interaction with non-mandatory, advisory boards. This measure ended the long-standing participation of Satellite Beach Public Library staff in the bi-monthly meetings of the Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board. (This injunction applies to all library branches and their interaction with city advisory boards. The County Attorney also decided it applied to county advisory boards--i.e., staff from libraries falling under the Brevard South-Central Library Advisory Board cannot interact with the board or its members.) An advisory board that cannot interact with the entity it has been appointed to support fails to advance our civic society and democracy. The County Commissioners undertook a review of non-mandatory, advisory boards as many had been dormant during the COVID pandemic. The Satellite Beach Library Advisory Board has, however, been meeting regularly since its establishment under the Satellite Beach City Code, Chapter 10, as amended by Ordinance 908, and as approved by the Satellite Beach City Council on June 15, 2005. Until the change, the board served as a sounding board for Satellite Beach Public Library staff and offered new ideas for programing based on our interaction with</p>

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Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.