

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

**NOTE: Attach current list of members and identify officers.**

<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Library Advisory Committee
<b>Date of Presentation:</b>	October 16, 2023
<b>Time Period Covered:</b>	July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023
<b>Name of Chairperson:</b>	Jeanne Marie Patterson
<b># of Meetings Held During Period</b> (including any special meeting or community input)	Four
<p><b>MISSION &amp; GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You also may attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.</b></p> <p>Goal 1: Represent &amp; respond to current needs &amp; issues and identify emerging trends, challenges, opportunities and needs  Strategies  Provide feedback on proposed policies or revisions to existing policies  Work with the Library Director to advocate for library funding needs  Work with the Library Director to obtain and collect data to identify current needs and emerging trends</p> <p>Goal 2: Promote usage of library services and programs for all residents  Strategies  Identify barriers to usage of the libraries and effective ways to address them      Focus Area: Reaching underserved members of the community  Identify and use communication strategies to reach diverse populations      Focus Area: presentations and other outreach methods to community partners  Enhance library facilities to be inviting and as visible as possible      Focus Area: Signage, landscaping, outdoor art, sitting areas, etc.</p>	
<p><b>ACCOMPLISHMENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES – Summarize concisely below the committee’s major accomplishments and activities of the past year. This should include reports, research, projects, public input, etc. Be sure to identify how they relate to specific goals, objectives or measures. You also may attach as a separate document but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.</b></p> <p>The State Library awarded the Chatham County Libraries a Food Literacy Grant. In cooperation with the Public Health Department and Cooperative Extension, 18 food programs were conducted to promote healthy eating, with 145 attendees. In addition, our Build with Food Program , featuring two county registered dietitians, presented a Heart Health program.</p> <p>Partnering with the American Heart Association, blood pressure kits are now available at all the libraries. They can be checked out for six weeks to enable adult patrons to learn and establish the habit of checking and recording their readings to share with their healthcare team.</p> <p>An Early Literacy Specialist was added to the youth services staff. This provided an 18% increase in programs which were attended by 4453 participants, an 24% increase over last year.</p>	

Public school teachers continue to contact the libraries to schedule class tours. There was a 15% increase, resulting in a 39% attendance increase to 2265 students.

The total amount of items checked out by children increased by 10%, 106,078.

In recognition of Black History Month a lobby display was created which included soil collected from the six known lynching sites in the count. It has now become a permanent display in the main library area.

Digital Literacy continues to promote the ability of individuals to find and use digital platforms. There were 25 classes with a total of 177 participants with an additional 451 individuals receiving technological assistance.

Overall:

73,000 library visitors system wide

16,722 reference questions related to employment and tecnology were answered

183,000 spring and electronic items were circulated

11,744 new library card accounts were issued system wide

**BARRIERS & CHALLENGES – Identify any barriers or challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objectives. Limit to the space provided below.**

**As the county moves forward there are many services including the library that continue to be assessed because of the tremendous growth associated with the economic development projects.**

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES: Please list any recommendations to the Board of Commissioners related to the changes in the advisory committee’s membership, mission, goals, objectives or other related issues.**

Libraries are steeped in tradition. As the county continues to grow it will be important not to rely on tradition and to foster new ideas and perspectives as the library cultivates new audienc

**OTHER INFORMATION: Provide any other information or observations that the Board of Commissioners should know about. Provide in the space below.**

Advisory Committee Members

Jeanne Marie Patterson, Chair

Patty Poe, Secretary

Rhoda Berkowit

Margaret Goldston

Leslie Ocampo