

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

NOTE: Attach current list of members and identify officers.

Name of Committee:	Library Advisory Committee
Date of Presentation:	September 21, 2020
Time Period Covered:	July 1 2019 thru June 30 2020
Name of Chairperson:	Jeanne Marie Patterson
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	Three: 09/18/2019, 12/04/2019, 03/03/2020
MISSION & 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.	
<p>Goal 1: Represent & respond to current needs & issues and identify emerging trends, challenges, opportunities and needs</p> <p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 & collect data to identify current needs and emerging trends <p>Goal 2: Promote usage of library services and programs by all residents</p> <p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers to usage of the libraries and effective ways to address them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus Area: Reaching underserved members of the community • Identify and use communication strategies to reach diverse populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus Area: Presentations and other outreach methods to churches nonprofits agencies book clubs, etc. • Enhance library facilities to be inviting and as viable as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus Area: signage, plantings; outdoor art, sitting areas, etc. 	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 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.	
See attached	
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.	
While COVID has reduced our ability to meet in-person, the Library Director has done an excellent job of keeping the committee up-to-date and soliciting advice and feedback as necessary	
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.	
none	
OTHER INFORMATION: Provide any other information or observations that the Board of Commissioners should know about. Provide in the space below.	
2019-2020 Advisory Committee members: Jeanne Marie Patterson, Chair; Rhoda L. Berkowitz, Don Knowles, Christine Minor, Patricia Wall Poe, Julieta Pridgen, Linda Clark, County Librarian and Karen Howard, County Commission Liaison	

Despite limitations imposed by COVID, the library has continued to serve as a vital and informative link for the community. Using various forms of digital technology, Linda Clarke and her staff have strived to be creative and purposeful in continuing to provide classes, author events and numerous other services.

Overall

- Grant awarded to Karen Dash Consulting to complete a library community assessment in 2020-21. Initially there was concern since the grant application was submitted pre-pandemic. The consultant has reassured the staff that although more virtual methods of data gathering will occur, the content of the information will be just as relevant as in-person meetings.
- Census participation

Goldston

- A bilingual crafts program was created during the summer of 2019. This summer the series was continued except that it could be viewed on the library's You Tube video channel.
- Hosting two showings of the film "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope" with other community agencies.

Wren

- Roof replacement, air conditioning repairs, ceiling tile replacement, new overhead and exterior lighting, brickwork renewal, updated signage and new task chairs.
- Kick off in October to coincide with "new look"
- Meeting room space used by area businesses to recruit employees

Chatham Community Library

- High attendance and diverse audiences in African American history month programs
- An events calendar that is not as robust as in pre-COVID days, but activities that have been converted to virtual environments including tutorials, book clubs, and new activities such as Open Mic opportunities.

COVID-related Activities

- The library was awarded a grant from the State Library to purchase PPE to maintain safety when facilities reopened.
- The libraries closed to the public mid-March and initiated non-contact curbside services for patrons to pick-up holds
- Customer service is always important to the library. Since beginning curbside services the public has expressed much appreciation for being able to read new books from the library.
- The outreach coordinator added another assisted living based book club prior to outreach services being suspended due to limited visitation at long term care facilities.
- Creation of new library card not requiring in-person visit to increase access for a greater number of patrons interested in ebooks. This proved to be very popular with 423 new registrants from March – June. Additional digital content was purchased in order to accommodate new ebook users.

- The library staff has been appreciative of the opportunity to continue working in the buildings while they have been closed to the public. They have been able to complete behind the scenes tasks such as inventorying the collection and continuing to order new books.
- Youth services staff have adapted to the situation by transitioning story times and the summer reading program to virtual formats. The timing for the public schools and library Chatham PASS collaboration was favorable since students took advantage of online resources to enhance their learning experiences. The children's librarians have engaged kids with structured activities in conjunction with literature to offset isolation created by the pandemic.