

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control

April 17, 2023

Recordings of all meetings can be found on the Library Board of Control page of the Lafayette Public Library website.

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on April 17, 2023. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Robert Judge, Board President; James Thomas, Board Vice-President; Joan Wingate; Stephanie Armbruster; David Pitre; Erasto Padron; Daniel Kelly

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Sarah Monroe, Assistant Director; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Robert Judge led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Staff Recognition

Christopher Starling, David Palomino-Herrera, and Sean Carney were recognized by the Board for going above and beyond their job duties.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as amended was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Joan Wingate.

Yeas: Judge, Thomas, Wingate, Armbruster, Pitre, Padron, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Robert Judge thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control.

V. Comments from the Library Board

The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library is appreciative of continued community support.

Lafayette Public Library Foundation is preparing for the Somewhere over the Bayou event that will be held April 20, 2023 at Vermilionville. Doors open at 6 and the event begins at 6:30. This year's honorees include Tia Castille, the family of Sona Dombourian, and the Lafayette Public Library staff. Tickets are \$45 and are available through Eventbrite. Information can be found at lplfondation.org.

VI. Director's Report and Comments

Opt-in restricted cards are available. This does not affect LPSS cards or out-of-parish patrons.

The library is consolidating makerspaces into the Main and West Regional makerspace as these branches have dedicated spaces.

The library is exploring a private/public partnership to restore the EV charging stations.

An ordinance will be introduced April 18 to upgrade four library positions from Library Technical Assistant III to Library Associate I.

VII. Assistant Director's Report and Comments

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

Lafayette Reads Together Author Talk with Ellen Hopkins on March 2 was well attended.

ERL's Taylor Swift themed teen program "You're On Your Own, Kid" was so popular, they had to have it twice.

NRL hosted a special storytime with Laura McDonald, Park Ranger from the Acadian Cultural Center at the Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve, for a Read with a Ranger program.

WRL had 118 patrons participate in their Tiny Art Project program where patrons had a chance to contribute artwork for display at WRL and be entered to win prizes.

Assistant Director has been working closely with United Way, The Women's Foundation, and other organizations from Healthy Acadiana to start a seed library in Lafayette. Talk began late last summer which led to Healthy Acadiana participating in the 24-Hour Citizen Project and receiving \$2,000 to help fund the library. After many months of work, The Seed Library by Healthy Acadiana launches Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00am. Patrons can attend the launch event or stop by anytime to see the library. There is a plan to offer programs on various gardening topics and healthy food preparation to complement the seed library as well as provide literature on gardening and seed-saving techniques.

Butler Branch will reopen on May 1st after being closed for a short period due to staffing shortages.

Assistant Director attended Friends of the Library board meeting, Foundation board meeting, library programming meetings, Healthy Acadiana meeting, and an Early Literacy Initiative Committee meeting.

VIII. Facilities Update & Financial Report

The upper roof portion of the Main Library Roof Replacement Project is close to completion (pending metal trim installation, drain covers, elevator penthouse door replacement & securing/electrical tidying of HVAC equipment). The current staging area in the parking lot is scheduled to be relocated and consolidated on Saturday April 15, 2023. The lower roof demolition is scheduled to start the week of April 17th.

Combined Schematic Design/Design Development documents for the South Regional Upgrades are pending review by library staff.

Director, Assistant Director, and Operations Manager met with Angelle Architects, Associated Design Group and Thomasee & Associates to review the North Regional Library Upgrades project scope and budget. Probable cost will need to be updated to account for current market values and phasing, this will occur at Design Development submittal. Closure of the library is anticipated during certain phases of the project but if possible the library would like to avoid summer months. Equipment lead times related to HVAC will likely be an issue. Associated Design group will provide recommendations for the phasing, demolition, and installation of the VRF systems. Discussion/review of previous scope of work occurred/confirmed (re-roof/deign, drainage improvements, lighting upgrades, interior finishes (paint/carpet), parking lot sealing and drive-thru modifications, restroom tile replacement and plumbing upgrades, etc.). Next meeting will likely be late April or early May.

Director and Operations Manager performed a site visit and research on a potential land option.

The Library has partnered with Festival International as done in previous years. Festival International will have use of the Main Library parking lot after library hours. The library has made its annual preparations related to this event.

Operations Manager attended the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Center for Local Government Excellence Workshop.

Operations Manager attended the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Millage Workshop.

The Lafayette Police Department has started providing security at the Main Library in place of the Lafayette Sheriff as of April 3, 2023.

In FY 22/23, the library has collected 11.7M and has spent 5.3M.

IX. New Business

A. Northeast Library

A committee will be formed after property is purchased to provide community input into the new library. James Thomas, Vice-President of the Board, will chair the committee.

The mission statement of the committee will read as follows: The Northeast Committee is convened to express the particular needs of the community to the Board for consideration into the design of the Northeast library. The committee will begin its duties when a property is purchased and its duties will end at groundbreaking.

B. Library Book Discards December - February

A motion for the library to discard 2,034 books having been out of used for over a year due to the books being superseded, obsolete, unused, or otherwise unnecessary was made by Joan Wingate and seconded by James Thomas.

Yeas:
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent:

X. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, May 15, 2023.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2023.
- C. Reminder that Personal Financial Disclosure form due on or before May 15, 2023.

XI. Comments from the public on any other matter not on this agenda

Lynette Mejia spoke of the change made to the Collection Development Policy in February. Mejia asked that the Board rescind the policy changes until further researched.

Mary Lib Guercio thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Board. Guercio spoke of the award given to staff, and how diverse libraries can be.

John Mikell thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Board. Mikell spoke of concern about the future of Lafayette and how meetings are conducted.

Pablo Mejia thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Board. Mejia congratulated library staff awarded for going above and beyond their job duties.

Claire Delcambre thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Board. Delcambre spoke of hate groups being against libraries.

Ella Arsement thanked Joan Wingate for her years on the Board and introduced herself as the replacement for Wingate's position.

XII. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary