

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

December 18, 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 December 18, 2023. Daniel Kelly, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Daniel Kelly, Board President; Stephanie Armbruster, Board Vice President; Ella Arsement; Robert Judge; Allan Moore; Erasto Padron; James Thomas

Other Staff Present: Sarah Monroe, Interim Library Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Nancy Hebert, Administrative Assistant

The invocation was led by Daniel Kelly.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Daniel Kelly led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore, Padron, Thomas

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion carries.

IV. Comments from the Library Board

There were no comments from the Board.

V. Director Search Committee Update

Stephanie Armbruster is coordinating a meeting for January, and she will be working with the interim Director soon to determine meeting room availability.

VI. Interim Director's Report & Comments

There are no staff changes to report.

Overall, the past month has been fairly quiet. The interim Director attended the Friends Board Meeting, as well as an executive session with the Foundation Board officers.

Staff are already working on planning the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge. Save the date for Saturday, June 1 at the Main Library for our big summer kickoff event.

The statistics for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year were finalized and uploaded to the library's website. Circulation and library usage stayed pretty consistent across the board with varying increases in electronic checkouts, new library cards, library visitors, patron questions, meeting room uses, and study room uses. One of the biggest increases can be seen in the library's programs. Staff offered 7% more programs but saw a 33% increase in attendance.

Once everything was tallied, Library Administration learned that:

- 750,000 people walked through the doors.
- 73,000 people attended library programs.
- 11,000 people signed up for new library cards.
- And 1.8 million items were circulated.

All in all, it was a good year for the library.

VII. Facilities Update & Financial Report

The Construction Documents Phase plans and specifications for the South Regional Upgrades are under review. Administration is aiming to present this phase to the Library Board of Control at the January 2024 regular meeting.

The Library Operations Manager met with Public Works, Architect, and Civil Engineer of the North Regional Library Upgrades project on December 14 to discuss site drainage and scope of work. The Architect will contract with Civil Engineer, who will handle topography plans for drainage and make recommendations for parking lot repair/maintenance. The Civil Engineer hopes to provide draft documents to Architect in January. The Architect expects the Design Development plans from the mechanical and electrical consultants the week of December 18. After their review, they will pass it to Library Administration and Public Works for review.

The application was submitted to subdivide the 10-acre Northeast Library property on December 7 and has been assigned Project # 2023-76-PC by LCG's City Planning Commission. Included with the submittal was a preliminary plat, which is available for

viewing on the Library’s website. The City Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024, at 5PM and will be held in the Auditorium in Building C at 220 W. Willow Street. A draft purchase agreement has been sent to the owners for review.

A glass panel in the stairwell of the Main Library shattered on the evening of Friday, December 1. Security footage indicated this to be a random event as no one was near the panel when it shattered. A sheet of plywood was cut and installed by maintenance staff as a temporary measure until a new panel is ordered and installed.

A glass panel at the front entrance of the West Regional Library shattered on the afternoon of December 4. Security footage indicated this to be a random event as no one was near the panel when it shattered. Luckily, staff were able to block off the area for safety, while still allowing use of the front doors. The new glass panel is on order and the lead-time is estimated to be 1 month.

A roof leak at South Regional Library was reported on November 15 in the meeting room hall near the auditorium. Architect Gene Sellers, on the library’s behalf, made a warranty claim with the roofing manufacturer.

Multiple roof leaks were reported at South Regional Library on December 1. Areas reported are as follows: maintenance office, small meeting room, circulation area near drive thru, and study room D. Architect Gene Sellers, on the library’s behalf, made a warranty claim with the roofing manufacturer.

In FY 23/24, the library has collected \$83 thousand and has spent \$2 million.

VIII. New Business

A. Disaffiliation from the American Library

The board resumed discussion of disaffiliating from the American Library Association which had been postponed at the November 20, 2023 meeting. After further board discussion, Paige Beyt, counsel for LPL, raised concerns of the inclusion of the word “atheistic” in the resolution.

Robert Judge offered an amendment to remove the word “atheistic” and replace it with “a” in the resolution so that the second paragraph of the resolution reads as follows:

Whereas Marxism is an ideology that is based on the reduction of the human person to an economic functionary and a system of governance characterized by a collectivist economic policy, that seeks total government control of all aspects of the economy,

Daniel Kelly seconded the motion.

Mary Lib Guercio, Anne Swanson, Laura Truxillo, Aaron Chance, and Christi Green commented on the amendment.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore, Padron, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

The motion carries.

Robert Judge made a motion to pass the following amended resolution, thus disassociating Lafayette Public Library from the American Library Association.

Whereas the American Library Association has elected, by the majority of its members, to the office of president a person, who by her own self-description is a Marxist,

Whereas Marxism is an ideology that is based on the reduction of the human person to an economic functionary and a system of governance characterized by a collectivist economic policy, that seeks total government control of all aspects of the economy,

Whereas Marxism is antithetical to the American form of governance based on the will of the people and individual freedom and private ownership of property “with certain unalienable rights endowed by their creator,”

The American Library Association is antagonistic toward family life and the rights of parents to rear and educate their own children in the manner according to their beliefs and morals,

This being the case, the Lafayette Parish Library System renounces and repudiates the ALA therefore cannot be associated with the American Library Association in any way,

Be it therefore resolved that the Lafayette Parish Library System will no longer have any association with the American Library Association and will include the inclusive, but not exclusive following prohibitions:

No employee of the Lafayette Parish Library System will be required to have any membership in the American Library Association,

No monies will be appropriated, allocated, reimbursed, or otherwise and in any way be expended to or with the American Library Association,

No employee will be reimbursed or receive any remuneration for attendance at or continuing education, conference sponsored or conducted with or by the American Library Association.

This resolution is binding on any and all employees and members of the Lafayette Parish Library Board of Control.

Stephanie Armbruster seconded the motion.

The interim Director recommended that the word “parish” be replaced with “public” as “Lafayette Public Library System” is the correct name. Also, she asked that “remuneration” in the second to last paragraph be changed to the correct spelling of “remuneration”.

Ella Arsement offered an amendment to make the changes as presented by the interim Director. Erasto Padron seconded.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore, Padron, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

The motion carries.

Danny Gillane, Barry Ancelet, Greg Ardoin, George Armbruster, Jim Bass, Kelsye Baudoin, Charles Boustany, Aaron Chance, Cara Chance, Francesco Crocco, Melany Champagne, Claire Delcambre, Andrew Duhon, Mitzi Duhon, Tracy Fabre, Cindi Fox, Anna Gauthier, Christi Green, Mary Lib Guercio, Siobhan Hebert, Darline Laughlin, Michelle Lazarus, Mitzi Maddox, Lynette Mejia, Pablo Mejia, Peyton Rose Michelle, John Mikell, Karen Mills, Anne Swanson, Dory Thomasee, and Laura Truxillo commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore, Padron
Nays: Thomas
Abstained: None
Absent: None

The motion carries.

Daniel Kelly called for a 15-minute recess at 8:40 PM.

B. Policy Change

The meeting resumed at 8:55 PM.

Stephanie Armbruster asked to be recognized and presented her recommended changes to the Collection Development Policy, Library Card Policy, and Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form in order to be compliant with Act 436 by January 1, 2024. There was some board discussion, including some concerns raised by Paige Beyt.

Robert Judge made a motion that the policies be adopted as outlined by Armbruster, and Daniel Kelly seconded.

George Armbruster, Cara Chance, Bug Daigle, Francesco Crocco, Peyton Rose Michelle, and Jae Regan commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore, Padron, Thomas

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion carries.

IX. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board Meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2023.

X. Public Comments on any Library business which is not an agenda item.

Stephanie Armbruster and Robert Judge left the meeting at 9:51 PM.

Melany Champagne, Aaron Chance, Mitzi Maddox, and Brittany Whitfield commented.

XI. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary