

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

March 21, 2022

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 March 21, 2022. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:13 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Robert Judge, Board President; Landon Boudreaux, Vice – President; Doug Palombo; Stephanie Armbruster; Shane Landers; David Pitre; James Thomas (arrived 5:15)

Board Members Absent: Joan Wingate

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Danielle Breaux, Director’s Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Michael Hebert, Assistant City-Parish Attorney; Glenn Angelle, Principal Architect, Angelle Architects; Dione Sonnier, Project Manager, Angelle Architects; Mary Lib Guercio; Dominick Cross; Joseph Abraham, MD; Lynette Mejia; John Mikell; Jean Menard; Michael Smith; Madison Price; Mary Pritchard; Cindi Fox; Dianna Gassie Rybiski; Nichole Wilson

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. New Business

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

Yeas: Judge, Boudreaux, Palombo, Armbruster, Thomas, Landers, Pitre
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Wingate

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Reconsideration Committee Meeting was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by Doug Palombo.

Yeas: Judge, Boudreaux, Palombo, Thomas, Landers, Pitre

Nays: None

Abstained: Armbruster

Absent: Wingate

IV. Comments from the Library Board

The LPLF is one of the sponsors of Lafayette Reads Together and events are going well with the programming slated in conjunction with the book *Clues to the Universe*, including a speaking engagement with the author, Christina Li. The LPLF has just elected officers for the upcoming year, taking the LPLF into a new year of service. Committees are firming up in all areas of support, including endowment, community outreach and other projects taken on in the coming year. The annual luncheon slated for May 6, 2022 will tout a new format. Look for details in the upcoming press release and launch of event publicity.

The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library are proud to announce that they have reached their goal of donating over one million dollars to and in support of this fabulous library system. Over a period of 40 years, the Friends have donated \$1,001,940.16, raised through semi-annual book sales and through the generosity of the public and their support.

The Friends are a nonprofit volunteer organization that supports and promotes the library system and its programs. Their purpose is to provide monies for items not currently in the library's budget. Over the years, The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library have given children's books to each new branch as it has opened and supported the summer reading programs each year. In addition, they have funded the beginnings of the DVD collection, a 3D printer for the downtown library's Maker Space, and donated the funds for the BookTalk newsletter, which is mailed out several times each year. The Friends have also funded a scholarship for Library Science at LSU that is available to anyone in Lafayette Parish. Additionally, the Friends provided funds for the bibliobike and for a portion of the bookmobile. The Spring book sale, entitled One in a Million, will be held Wednesday, March 23 - Saturday, March 26, 2022, in the Heymann Convention Center Ballroom.

V. Director's Report and Comments

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

3M has been cut from the capital budget and approximately \$413,300 has been cut from the operations budget per year.

Director attended a meeting of the Bayouland Library System.

Director was interviewed by Acadiana Advocate and by Daily Advertiser.

Library sent approximately 11,000 discarded Audio/Visual items and 10,000 discarded magazine issues to LCG for auction or disposal. Because of LCG scheduling, these items will not go out until June.

Director met with Councilman Tabor.

Programs offered are up by nearly 100% in February but attendance is down. Circulation is down 7% in February; however, audiobook circulation is up 7%. Library visits are up 15% in February. Public computer use is up 18%, and the number of people using public computers is up 27% in February. Electronic resource use is up 4% in February. Meeting space use is up over 27%, and study room use is up 7% in February.

VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report

2022 revenues are currently 10.6M. Expenditures are at 4.7M.

The annual budget process has begun.

Larry Angelle met with the project team on the Main Library Roof Replacement Project to walk the upper and lower to discuss coordination and product options. The completion of the plans and specifications is forthcoming.

Larry Angelle and Danny Gillane met with Public Works, MBSB, and other architecture firms to consider a green roof idea. It was determined that the Main Library structure has some positives but the negatives of the idea outweighed the benefits. The library will continue as planned on replacing the existing roof with a traditional roofing system.

South Regional Upgrades Architect had prior commitments and could not make the March Board meeting.

Library Administration will plan on requesting the Library Board of Control to vote on moving forward with the next phase of this project at the April board meeting.

Library staff met with Architect and Public Works to go over the scope of work for the North Regional Library Upgrades to confirm all was in order. Updated SD plans and pricing estimate will be presented later in the meeting.

Library is waiting on the Lease Amendment for the warehouse to be reviewed and signed by the Lessor of the building.

Drafted RFP documents for the Northeast Library were sent to the Purchasing Department on February 22, 2022. Approval was received from LCG Administration to proceed with the project was received on March 10, 2022. This is pending Purchasing Department review.

The library is waiting on subcontractor to schedule the repairs to the East Regional Library window leaks in the meeting room.

The motor bearings on the Air Handler Unit 3-2 at Main are bad. Repairs will cost \$2,490.00.

The Main and East Regional Library are scheduled for exterior pressure washing, window cleaning and high dusting of the interior of the facilities. These services previously occurred annually but are now staggered by location to spread the expenses across multiple fiscal years.

VII. New Business

A. North Regional Library Upgrades

Glenn Angelle presented an updated schematic design and pricing estimate to the Board. The cost of the project is estimated at 1.4M.

A motion to approve the schematic design and pricing estimate and move into the design development phase was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by David Pitre.

Dominic Cross spoke on the wind resistance of a roof.

Yeas: Judge, Boudreaux, Palombo, Armbruster, Thomas, Landers, Pitre
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Wingate

B. Library Book Discards January-February 2022

Board asked for details on discards.

A motion for the library to discard 4,317 books having been out of use for over a year due to the books being superseded, obsolete, unused, or otherwise unnecessary was made by James Thomas. This motion was seconded by David Pitre.

Joseph Abraham, MD signed in but did not wish to speak on the matter.

Yeas: Judge, Boudreaux, Thomas, Landers, Pitre

Nays: None

Abstained: Armbruster, Palombo

Absent: Wingate

C. Library Card Policy

Section B of the Library Card Policy refers to the Bayouland Full-Service Reciprocal Borrower Cards and reads as follows:

These are full-service cards issued to residents of other parishes within the Bayouland Library System that have valid cards from the parish in which they reside. Individuals (adults and children) must present photo identification along with their resident parish library card. The Bayouland Library System libraries outside of Lafayette include: Acadia Parish, Allen Parish, Iberia Parish, St. Martin Parish, St. Mary Parish, Vermilion Parish and the Opelousas-Eunice Library.

Robert Judge made a motion to change the policy to read: These are full-service cards issued for a yearly fee of twenty (20) dollars to residents of other parishes within the Bayouland Library System that have valid cards from the parish in which they reside. Individuals (adults and children) must present photo identification along with their resident parish library card. The Bayouland Library System libraries outside of Lafayette include: Acadia Parish, Allen Parish, Iberia Parish, St. Martin Parish, St. Mary Parish, Vermilion Parish and the Opelousas-Eunice Library. This was seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

It was specified that out-of-parish patrons who attend school or work in Lafayette will still qualify for a free card.

Lynette Mejia stated that the Board had previously visited this issue and determined that no true budgetary impact could be gained by charging out-of-parish cardholders. She asked that justification of major policy changes be linked to documents on the Library Board webpage.

Mary Lib Guercio stated that she did not see or hear any documentation justifying the change. She questioned how many people would be impacted by the change. She asked that it be discussed further for the benefit of the Board and members of the public.

John Mikell stated that he was an out-of-parish resident with a reciprocal borrower card. He spoke of consortia within libraries. He questioned the change to policy and how it would affect patrons and/or LPL's relationship with other library systems. He asked that the Board vote down the policy change.

Jean Menard read from ALA documentation. She stated that this policy change may remove access for children. She read from a letter written by her daughter to the Board.

Michael Smith spoke against the policy change and how it would make patrons feel unwelcome. He urged the Board to work on getting the third millage back and to be more inclusive.

Madison Price spoke urged the Board to vote against the policy change.

Joseph Abraham MD spoke of out-of-parish library use and asked about the financial impact of the policy change. He urged the board to pull this amendment and asked for a cost analysis.

Cindi Fox signed in but didn't wish to speak. She indicated that she opposed the policy change and wanted the library to continue providing library cards to surrounding parishes.

Diana Gassie Rybiski signed in but didn't wish to speak. She indicated that she opposed the policy change.

Nichole Wilson signed in but didn't wish to speak. She indicated that she opposed the fee for out-of-parish residents.

Yeas: Judge, Armbruster, Boudreaux, Landers

Nays: Thomas, Palombo

Abstained: Pitre

Absent: Wingate

VIII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, April 18, 2022.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2022.

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

Lynette Mejia asked for the restoration of the makeup of the reconsideration committee to two library staff members and one Board member.

Mary Lib Guercio stated that it would be helpful to the public to have access to visuals during Board meetings. She asked that the Board recognize positive actions by support groups or staff members during meetings. She asked for detail about the change in the mission statement.

Madison Price spoke of the lack of confidence in the Board by the community.

Mary Pritchard read a statement from the Lafayette Parish Democratic Parish Executive Committee calling for the Library Board of Control and its political appointees to cease holding meetings to make decisions on library holdings and to leave that authority where it properly resides, with professional librarians. This was written on behalf of the members with an abstention by James Thomas, At-Large Member.

Nichole Wilson signed in but didn't wish to speak. She indicated that she was opposed to censorship of any kind.

Library board president took a moment to address the Board portrayal in the news and stated that the Board has not set out expressly to ban books.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary