

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

October 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the meeting room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on October 17, 2022. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

**I. Roll Call and Invocation**

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

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

Members of the Public: Paige Beyt, Oats & Marino; Lynette Mejia; Melanie Brevis; Joe Abraham; Greg Ardoin; Renee Bernard; Erin Ardoin; George Merhej; Rick Cambre; Kirk LeBlanc; Dan Faugot; Aaron Travasos; Jeff Heimbold; Phyllis Travasos; John Mikell; Wayne Colvin; Dominick Cross; Laura Truxillo

The invocation was led by Daniel Kelly.

**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 September 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was made by James Thomas and seconded by Joan Wingate.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

#### **IV. Comments from the Library Board**

The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library raised \$14,000 during their Fall Book Sale. To join the Friends or volunteer, visit [facebook.com/LafayetteFriends](https://www.facebook.com/LafayetteFriends).

The Lafayette Public Library Foundation, Beausoleil Books, and underwriting sponsor Love Our Schools will host Jeff Kenney, author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, in the Lafayette Middle School auditorium on November 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

#### **V. Director's Report and Comments**

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

Staffing issues with Parks & Rec have affected the library's ability to open the Butler branch.

10,000-15,000 items will soon be purged from the library warehouse.

Appraisal was received for the Northeast Library property. Library Administration is reviewing the appraisal with Legal.

#### **VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report**

A bid date for the Main Library Roof Replacement Project was established and sent out to potential bidders. A pre-bid meeting occurred at the Main Library on October 11. Architect went over the project requirements and potential bidders asked questions and viewed the roof areas. The bid opening is scheduled for October 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM, assuming no addenda are issued requiring an extension.

Clarification questions were asked by the Architect on the South Regional Upgrades and addressed by Library Administration.

Steps being taken for the Northeast Library:

1. Get an appraisal of the property. (LCG has an as-needed contract in place with Cope Associates LLC. Operations Manager has reached out to the LCG contract and Cope Associates to start the appraisal process.)
2. Get plat of survey. (LCG has an as-needed contract in place with R.J. Fuselier & Associates for surveying services. Operations Manager has reached out to the LCG contract manager to have things ready to execute and start the surveying services after the appraisal occurs and the purchase price is finalized.)
3. Finalize a Purchase Agreement. (Legal)

4. Submit Ordinance to Parish Council authorizing acquisition of property and granting the Mayor-President authority to sign all documents necessary. (Legal/Library Administration)
5. Execute Purchase Agreement. (Legal/Library Administration/LCG Administration)
6. Title Work. (Legal)
7. Environmental Phase I. (Contract Services to be established at a later date)
8. Closing.

East Regional Library Chiller #2 water pump 5 HP motor had to be replaced due to bad bearings. The total cost is \$1,600. A bad transducer was also found preventing Chiller #2 from running and will be replaced. A bad fan motor was replaced on Chiller #1.

All air filters on Air Handler Units in the Main Library were replaced. VAV box filters were replaced on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

Carpet cleaning occurred at the Main Library, costing \$2,499, and at the East Regional Library, costing \$1,995.

Landscaping Maintenance Contractor was found to not be performing all specified contracted services.

Irrigation system at North Regional Library was set incorrectly resulting in over-watering of the landscaping and a high water bill for two months. The irrigation system was shut off and not turned on during the long stretch of no rain resulting in no watering of the landscaping.

Trees in the parking lot of South Regional Library were not trimmed as per request of the Operations Manager.

Operations Manager charged liquidated damages and did not pay for irrigation maintenance for the North Regional Library and did not pay for landscaping maintenance for the South Regional Library. Owners/contacts of the company were notified that corrective action must occur immediately. Issues have been addressed by the contractor.

Geaux Mow Contractors have agreed to extend pricing for an additional 36 cuts at the Main and West Regional locations.

Bids will occur to establish new pricing for the East Regional, North Regional, and South Regional locations.

The library has collected 11.2M and has spent 10.1M.

The current fiscal year ends October 31, 2022. Additional expenses will occur beyond the October 31, 2022 date and be accrued to the current fiscal year.

## VII. New Business

### A. Board Meetings

A motion to accept the 2023 Board Meeting Calendar as presented was made by Joan Wingate and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

### B. Election of Officers

A motion to elect James Thomas as Library Board Vice-President was made by David Pitre.

A motion to elect Robert Judge as Library Board President was made by Stephanie Armbruster.

A motion to elect Shane Landers as Library Board President was made by James Thomas.

Lynette Mejia stated that public libraries exist to serve their communities. She commended library staff on managing the budget and asked the Board to focus on fiscal issues.

Melanie Brevis urged the Board to not let pride or personal belief get in the way of deciding to protect the library, all citizens the library serves, and to make the library fiscally sound again. She stated her support for Shane Landers as President.

Greg Ardoin spoke in support of the Board and its leadership and stated his support for Robert Judge.

Renee Bernard stated her support for Robert Judge.

Erin Ardoin encouraged the Board to support Robert Judge for a second term.

George Merhej stated his support for Robert Judge and his support for the Board under the direction of Robert Judge.

Rick Cambre stated his support for the leadership of Robert Judge.

Kirk LeBlanc stated his support for Robert Judge.

Dan Faugot stated his support for Robert Judge.

Aaron Trivasos stated his support for Robert Judge.

Jeff Heimbold thanked the Board for their service and stated his support for Robert Judge.

Phyllis Trivasos stated her appreciation for the Board and her support for Robert Judge.

The vote for President was as follows:

Judge: Judge, Armbruster, Kelly, Pitre, Padron

Landers: Wingate, Thomas, Landers

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The vote for Vice-President was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

## **VIII. Announcements**

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, November 21, 2022.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2022.

Robert Judge stated that the issue with employee Cara Chance was moved from the Board to being handled by Library Administration.

David Pitre reminded Board members not to wait until December 31 to complete yearly ethics training and sexual training.

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

Melanie Brevis questioned safety measures taken at meetings and stated that there will be continuous pushback toward the Board. She asked that the Board review the Display Guidelines.

John Mikell welcomed the new Board members. He spoke of Board turnover and recommended the Board read Revelation.

Greg Ardoin stated his support of the Board. He stated that the goal of a small but vocal minority was a library with no community standards and no parental rights. He asked that the Board keep the library stay a safe and neutral space.

Wayne Colvin spoke to the fact that patrons wishing to donate books to the Friends can do so at the Library Warehouse. He stated this would be inconvenient if moved to the Northeast Library site. He questioned the number of parking spaces at regional libraries.

Dominick Cross questioned safety measures taken at meetings.

Laura Truxillo stated that librarians interact with the entire community. She stated that the library and library materials are for the whole community.

Stephanie Armbruster stated that at the September meeting, an excerpt was read from a complaint letter sent to the board in a prior year during public comment. The member of the public reading the excerpt stated that the letter was regarding the LEH Grant. In order to correct the record, Armbruster noted that the complaint letter referenced by the member of the public was in regard to the book selection for the Beyond Black History Month Book Club, not the LEH grant.

David Pitre stated that in not allowing a President of a non-profit board to succeed himself, those boards lose leadership and experience. He stated his support of the bylaws allowing a Board President to serve successive terms.

Robert Judge asked that Board members give him a brief synopsis of their educational and professional background.

## **X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment**

Erasto Padron led the Board in a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danny Gillane, Secretary