

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

September 19, 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 September 19, 2022. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:14 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

Board Members Absent: Landon Boudreaux

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; Greg Ardoin; Ella Arsement; Corey Grimley; Mary Lib Guercio; Melanie Brevis; Stephanie Skinner Touchet; Dan Faugot; Wayne Colvin

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 August 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Joan Wingate.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Boudreaux

IV. Comments from the Library Board

The Friends of the Library had a book sale scheduled September 15-17 and are working toward donating their second million to support the library.

The Lafayette Public Library Foundation is celebrating their 30th anniversary in October. This group is working on a new outreach to get Lafayette reading, giving more awareness to all things literary and assisting the library. The Foundation is looking toward having a tent at ArtWalk in the Fall.

V. Director's Report and Comments

Library Director, Assistant Director, and Board Member Thomas met with the LPSS Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Mark Rabalais and Secondary ELA, Library Science (6-12) Specialist Randy Bernard.

Director has met with school administrators on the east side of the Evangeline Thruway.

A Full-Staff Meeting was held August 18. This focused on patron interaction.

VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report

Plans and specifications for the Main Library Roof Replacement Project were delivered to the Purchasing Department for final review. Once approved, a bid date will be established and bid packets will be sent to potential bidders.

An Architectural Services Contract Amendment was executed for the South Regional Library Upgrades. Architect will begin the combined Schematic Design and Design Development phases.

An Architectural Services Contract Amendment was executed for the North Regional Library Upgrades. Architect will begin the Design Development phase.

Lease Amendment for the Library Warehouse has been executed.

Director, Operations Manager and Attorney met with Purchasing to discuss steps needed to move the land purchase forward for the Northeast Library.

Delivery truck damage at the Main Library has been repaired.

Window leaks were reported in the Large Meeting Room, a conference room, and at the front lobby entrance at the West Regional Library in the summer of 2022. Architect

and Operations Manager visited site to inspect. Subcontractor addressed issues in a timely manner and issues appear to be resolved.

A leak was found in the coil of condenser unit 1A at the South Regional Library. This caused a compressor to burn up. Repairs and replacement cost will be near \$5,800.

The library has collected 11.1M in revenues and has spent 9.4M.

LCG Fiscal year 21/22 ends October 31. Year-end capital funds and donation funds carryover process will soon begin.

FY22/23 Budget was adopted on 09/08/22. No changes were made to library budget.

Property Tax Levy amounts will be voted on by the Parish Council on September 20, 2022.

An updated Proforma estimate was included in Board packets.

VII. New Business

Robert Judge addressed the public regarding the procedure for interested persons wishing to be heard on matters related to the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control.

A. Library Book Discards June – August 2022

A motion for the library to discard 1483 books having been out of use 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: Wingate, Thomas, Landers, Pitre, Kelly

Nays: Judge

Abstained: Armbruster

Absent: Boudreaux

B. Northeast Library Committee

Board discussed contracts in place with an Architect and a Consultant. The opportune time for the Board President to create an ad hoc committee involving public, Board, and library input would be once the Consultant is engaged.

President Judge discussed the By-Laws, particularly Article 4 section 4 and Article 7 section 1 governing the creation and dissolving of Ad-Hoc Committees. The previous NERL ad-hoc committee was created by previous president Mr. Palombo with the purpose of studying and moving forward with NERL. That purpose was achieved and actually the committee remained in place past that point. As a matter of course, the committee ceased to exist. This is true of the other four Ad-Hoc committees that have been formed since Mr. Judge has been a member of the Board. Mr. Gillane commented that there may be a point to create a new committee, but that must be done by the President of the Board.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, October 17, 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 spoke on the programming grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to fund a reading a discussion series on the history of voting rights. She stated that this was not controversial and that other library systems have applied for and been rewarded this grant without dispute.

Greg Ardoin spoke in support of the Board and applauded their fiscal responsibility. He thanked them for their service and for their continued work to ensure age-appropriate access to library material.

Ella Arsement asked that the Board continue to allow public comment. She stated that freedom of speech comes with a personal responsibility of respecting one's self and others. She also commented on the need for the bullying and berating of Board members to cease noting also the mocking of a Board members' choice of wearing a crucifix.

Corey Grimley noted that discussion had been held on what media content is inappropriate versus what the community deems as obscene material and what is appropriate to have for minors. He stated what the community believes should control and not librarians touting ALA certification. He stated the materials that are sexual in content that are available to children are part of the grooming of children. He went on to define grooming.

Mary Lib Guercio stated her support for the LEH Who Gets to Vote grant as long as the history of voting rights is discussed.

Melanie Brevis stated that community standards is code for a small group of people wanting to impose their standards on everyone and that those standards are exclusionary. She referenced a letter previously submitted to the Board in opposition of the LEH grant.

Stephanie Skinner Touchet reiterated the need for public comment. She asked that explicit material be kept away from children. She stated her support for physical materials in libraries.

Dan Faugot thanked the Board for their service and stated his support for a Northeast Library.

Wayne Colvin discussed the dwindling number of library visitors. He spoke on the digitization of materials. He questioned the size of the Northeast Library and how many people are expected to be served.

X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

James Thomas led the Board in a closing prayer.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary