

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

August 21, 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 August 21, 2023. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Robert Judge, Board President; Ella Arsement; Daniel Kelly; Erasto Padron

Board Members Absent: James Thomas, Board Vice President; Stephanie Armbruster; David Pitre

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

The invocation was led by Ella Arsement.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Ella Arsement called for an amendment to the minutes as the date for the next board meeting was incorrectly listed.

The motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting with the amendment by Ella Arsement made by Arsement and seconded by Daniel Kelly was voted on as follows:

Yeas: Judge, Arsement, Kelly, Padron

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Thomas, Pitre, Armbruster

The motion carries.

IV. Comments from the Library Board

Robert Judge introduced Ella Arsement as the newest member of the board.

V. Director's Report & Comments

The director spoke of staff trauma. He mentioned that the library has received proposals from LPSS and two private landowners. Senator Cloud's library bill became law and went into effect August 1st. The library is in compliance due to policy changes the board passed earlier this year as well as procedural changes at the end of July. Restricted cards do not have access to Libby by Overdrive. The budget looks really good. Library attendance is up 5% over last year and up nearly 12% over 2021.

VI. Assistant Director's Report & Comments

Recent staff changes include:

- Jacquelyn Miller was hired as a Library Community Relations Specialist.
- Likassina Brown and Madison Baudoin were both promoted to Library Associate Is.
- Janet Ardoin, a Library Associate I, accepted a lateral from South Regional to West Regional.
- Chizell Romero, a Library Technical Assistant II, accepted a lateral from North Regional to the Main Library.
- Katie Salvador, Sophie Day, and Kristen Hoffpauir were hired as Library Technical Assistant Is.
- We are in the process of filling the following positions: Regional Library Branch Manager, Librarian III, Librarian II, Librarian I, 3 Library Associate Is, 2 Library Technical Assistant IIIs, 2 Library Technical Assistant Is, Building Superintendent, and Director's Executive Secretary.

The 100 Days of Reading Summer Challenge wraps up on September 8th, World Literacy Day. So far, we've had 2,456 patrons register for the reading challenge with a total of 70,369 days of reading logged. With a minimum of 20 minutes a day read, that's almost one and half million minutes read! 1,243 readers completed the challenge by reading 30 Days. 761 readers went the extra mile and read for 50 Days. 267 readers went above and beyond and read for 75 Days. I'm excited to see how many readers will read the entire 100 Days!

We held our annual full-staff meeting on Thursday, August 17 at the Main Library. 120 staff members gathered to hear updates from Administration, a presentation on library safety from LPD, refresh their knowledge of our electronic resources, and participate in some library trivia and team building activities. Staff also had a chance to pause to de-stress with some puppies and kittens brought by Acadiana Animal Aid. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the pets or the staff. I also want to thank the Library Foundation for providing the funds to purchase breakfast for the staff.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we are releasing our 7th annual limited edition library card. This year's card features a whimsical illustration titled "Let's read a book!" by author and artist Denise Gallagher. The new card will be available starting Friday, September 1st. If you already have a card, you can get a replacement for just \$1.

September is also the Friends of the Library's Fall Book Sale. It is scheduled for September 13-16 at the Heymann Center. Books are sold by the inch, so there's no better deal in town!

The Library Foundation is continuing with incoming President Kylin Jordan's "Back to Basics" plan which includes voting on revised bylaws highlighting committee revamping and digital voting if necessary.

Finally, I attended a Seed Library Sub-Committee Meeting.

VII. Facilities Update & Financial Report

The Sellers Group is working on the construction documents for the South Regional Library renovations project. Angelle Architects are working on the design development phase for the North Regional Library renovations project.

In FY 22/23, the library has collected 12.6M in revenues and has spent 9M. The library is comparable in expenses to this time last year and currently projecting a surplus.

VIII. New Business

A. Bylaws

Revisions to bylaws require at least five Board members to be present in order to take action. Thus, a motion to postpone the matter indefinitely was made by Robert Judge and seconded by Ella Arsement.

Yeas: Judge, Arsement, Kelly, Padron

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Thomas, Pitre, Armbruster

The motion carries.

B. Northeast Library Land

After board discussion, Daniel Kelly made a motion to take action and move forward with the Shadow Bluff property and Ella Arsement seconded.

Wayne Colvin, Francesco Crocco, Forrest Chaisson, Claire Delcambre, Consuela Gaines, Mary Lib Guercio, Cary Hernandez, Glenn Lazard, Kerry Williams, Lynette Mejia, and Greg Ardoin commented.

Robert Judge made a motion to amend Kelly's original motion to include a lease property to be purchased within 45 days. The motion was not seconded. The original motion was voted on as follows:

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

The motion fails.

C. Executive Session

A motion to enter into executive session to perform the annual evaluation of the library director was made by Robert Judge and seconded by Ella Arsement.

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

The motion carries.

A motion to exit out of executive session was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Erasto Padron.

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

The motion carries.

IX. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, September 18, 2023.
- 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.

There were no public comments.

XI. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

Robert Judge led the Board in a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary