

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

East Bank Regional Library – Administration Conference Room  
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001

**July 18, 2023  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox, Becky Knight, Judy Mills, James Simmons and Margaret Thompson

**BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL:**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT:** Irene Lunkin, Melissa Muhoberac, Antoinette Scott, and Jessica Styons

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Cherreen Gegenheimer, CAA (virtual) and Megan Grantham, Parish Attorney for Library

**GUEST:** Westwego Branch Manager Brent Ferrantelli

Becky called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mills/Simmons made a motion to dispense with the reading of the May minutes and accept them as written. Motion carried.

Patricia suggested the June minutes be corrected to reflect the members that attended the June meeting in person and those that attended virtual.

Conescu/Cox made a motion to accept the June minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Jessica commented it is a treat to see all of the board members together in person.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Jessica and a few branch and department managers attended the Parish's Senior Citizen Expo at the Alario Center last month where they talked about our services for senior citizens.
- East Bank and West Bank Regional libraries were opened on 7/3 and 7/4, as cooling places for the public. A total of 722 people came in East Bank Regional on those two days and a little more than that at West Bank Regional. All staff that volunteered to work those days is to be commended. Although those days were Parish holidays, when we extended the opportunity for staff to work those days, a lot of staff signed up. Jessica is glad to know that the staff is all about helping the community.

- Seventeen of our librarians recently attended the Louisiana Library Association 2023 Annual Conference in Baton Rouge. Jessica was on a program about leadership along with someone from the State Library. People from other library systems were talking to us about our Beyond Books Initiative. We are doing innovating things!
- Jessica mentioned on her way the public side of the library this morning passing the meeting rooms, she heard the Children’s Librarian presenting the “read and sing” program. She said it was a joy to see.
- The Friends will host a reception with cake and punch for staff graduating from Library School. All Library Board members are invited to attend.
- Belle Terre Library will launch their LoT Fabric Arts collection on Saturday, 8/5, from 1 PM – 4 PM.
- Renovations at North Kenner Library are nearly complete. Counters are installed in the study rooms, and the A/C Duct work and painting is complete. New furniture and window shades are scheduled to arrive next week. The library will close mid-August for carpet installation.
- Grand Isle Library reopened early June. The roof installation is nearly complete and landscaping is being done.
- A drainage study was required in order to receive a building permit for the construction of Avondale Library. Once we receive the invoice for the drainage study and pay the invoice, the permit to build will be released. James mentioned he passed the site and saw equipment and pilings on site.
- The pre-bid for the Wagner Addition project was yesterday. The Bid Opening is scheduled for 8/8.
- Progress is being made with the renovation project at Westwego Library. We are waiting on a response from State Fire Marshall regarding a revision the contractor had to make to the plans. The roof work has started, staff are shelving the collection, and the last of the furniture is arriving this week.
- Jessica introduced Westwego’s Branch Manager Brent Ferrantelli. Brent has been with the Library for two years and currently works at West Bank Regional Library. He mentioned he is a retired Coast Guard Officer and he graduated from Library School just before COVID. He said its great working at West Bank Regional and he is looking forward to getting into Westwego Library. His plans are to evaluate the community’s needs to better serve them. He will also implement programming, and plans to invite Belle Terre Branch Manager Brigid to teach textiles and knitting classes. He also plans to work with veteran organizations. Brent mentioned he plays chess and is a guitar player.

Judy commented on the comment letter from a patron requesting a mini book sale at EBR and parking at the Pontchartrain Center for the Friends book sale. Jessica responded the Friends have put a book cart outside the Friends store where patrons can purchase books from the cart. Patricia commented parking is decided by the Pontchartrain Center and is not sure of another solution. She and Lisa mentioned they will talk about it at their Friends meeting.

Patricia stated her Councilwoman mentioned she is still receiving calls about the book challenges and inquired about restricted strips on library cards. Megan responded the Parish Attorney's office is aware of the Senate Bill 7 that was recently passed and is working with the Library to comply with the bill. The bill requires libraries to establish a policy to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit material by January 1, 2024 and for said policy to be implemented by June 1, 2024.

David provided a review on the Summer Reading Program (SRP) events he attended. The SRP ends 7/31. He and Chris spoke about upcoming programs and plans to rev up the email blasts. David reported the Library is doing a joint effort with JPAS and working to build a relationship. Chris announced American Sign Language classes are coming soon.

Jessica reported there is an increase in the number of programs presented and number of attendees when comparing last year programming statistics with this year's statistics.

The next meeting is August 15, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.