

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**February 18, 2025
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Bales, Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox and Becky Knight

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Simmons and Gordon Wadge

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUEST: Innovation & Outreach Librarians Skye Cornelia, Brittany Hart and Bridget Johnston; Marketing Manager David Johnson; EBR Teen Librarian Jennifer Bishop, and Belle Terre Sr. Associate Chandra Taylor.

Becky called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Conescu/Cox made a motion to dispense with the reading of the November minutes and accept them as written. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee nominated Patricia Cox for President and Gordon Wadge for Vice President.

Bales/Conescu made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried. All in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica took a moment to recognize former Reference Librarian Christine Borne who recently passed away. She is the sister-in to Gordon Wadge and aunt to EBR Sr. Associate Michael Borne. Christine worked at the Library for 31 years.
- Jessica introduced EBR Teen Librarian Jennifer Bishop, JPL's January Employee of the Month, and Belle Terre Sr. Associate Chandra Taylor, JPL's February Employee of the Month. Jennifer started with JPL in 2011 and coordinated the Yule Fest, Kitten Yoga, Pet Storytime, and Teen Lock-in events. She is also on the Louisiana Teen Reader's Choice Committee. Chandra started with JPL in 2016. She was recently promoted to Sr. Associate and will be transferring to the Avondale library when it opens. She hosts programs at Belle Terre library and learned how to use the Cricut machine to enhance programming at Belle Terre. She recently accompanied Jessica to the Avondale Civic Association meeting and presented a nice presentation to them.

- In the absence of Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, Skye Cornelia gave a presentation on the Library's reading programs that includes the *Friend's Raise a Reader Program*, our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, Every Child Ready to Read program, Head Start Storytime events and Student Literacy reading programs for elementary, middle school, high school, home school, and summer camps. Jessica mentioned we will be working with New Orleans Mom, a parenting resource for moms in the New Orleans area, on advertising these reading programs and children's programming. Jennifer added we also have a Teen Advisory Board and reading programs that include anime and manga groups.
- Innovation & Outreach Librarian Skye Cornelia also gave a presentation on the Library's outreach services which services senior citizens, Hispanic communities and neurodiversity groups. Their goals are to amplify outreach services to include possibly partnering with Jefferson Council on Aging for home delivery of books and other library materials, doing hospital visits, provide floating collections at senior centers in Jefferson Parish, plan off-site activities for senior citizens, expand the *Raise a Reader Program* to include foster and adoptive families, perform bilingual storywalks, and implement library card sign-up contests monthly at schools. Patricia offered the Friends can provide books for the floating collection. Jessica is excited about interacting with the foster and adoptive families.
- The LA Blinded Veterans Association donated a Braille Flag. The flag will be placed next to the flag in front the EBR library.
- Jessica acknowledged and thanked the Friends for presenting the staff with a Holiday Social in December, presenting the library with a \$100,000 donation, and donating books to the library.
- The library recently started a Celebrations, Appreciations, and Awards Committee (CAAC). The committee is composed of staff from various departments within the library. They recently nominated the January and February Employees of the Month and will soon vote on a March Employee of the Month, who may be invited to the March Library Board meeting.
- No libraries were damaged from the snow. We have plenty of pictures of our libraries covered in snow which we may use for Christmas cards. Our maintenance team worked to get all of the libraries opened for the public that weekend.
- Early voting will take place at both regional libraries March 15-22 for the March 29 election. Six of libraries serve as voting sites.
- Our millage renewal is coming up. If approved, the renewal will be on the ballot for May 3, 2025 election along with Recreation's and Drainage's millage renewal. We are prepared to meet with the Parish's PIO on promoting library services for the millage renewal.
- Kanopy services are on pause at this moment. We have reached the cap amount for services and cannot restart the contract until the contract is renewed. David Johnson mentioned Kanopy was heavily used while the library was closed during the snow week. We are informing patrons Hoopla is an alternative digital content resource until Kanopy's contract is renewed. A notice of this is posted on our social media page and our website.
- Six JPL staff will be participating in 8 different programs at the Louisiana Library Association conference in Baton Rouge 3/20-3/22. Two JPL Librarians serves on the conference committee. Jessica invited Board members to attend the conference.

- The Library maintenance team continues to keep our libraries cleaned until another janitorial vendor is in place
- Wagner library reopened; we can have our March meeting there if the Board is okay with it.
- The State Fire Marshal will inspect the Avondale library soon. Furniture is scheduled to arrive by 3/10. It's likely the library will open in April.
- The notice to proceed to commence with the Gretna garden project was sent recently. The contractor will have 5 months to complete the project.
- We are waiting on the Purchasing department to assign a Buyer to review the Makerspace project. After the Buyer's review, we will be able to go out for bid. It could be the end of April before a contractor is selected.
- Starting in March, we will have a Pet Scanning Station here in the parking lot at EBR. We also have EV charging stations in the parking lots at EBR and WBR libraries. The JP Environmental Department received a grant from the Volkswagens settlement to provide EV charging stations in Jefferson Parish.

Members of the Board reviewed the 2025 Library Board meeting schedule and agreed to have the March Board meeting at the Wagner Library.

Bales/Cox made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule. Motion carried. All in favor.

PUBLIC REMARKS:

None

The next Library Board meeting is March 18, 2025 at Wagner Library.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.