

# JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

**June 20, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Simmons

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

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Cherreen Gegenheimer, CAA and Brad Richard, Parish Attorney for Library

**GUEST:** Library Maintenance Superintendent Offord Langston and Belle Terre and Grand Isle Branch Manager Brigid Laborie

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

Review of the May minutes is table for the July meeting because there is a lack of quorum in-person.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Jessica introduced Offord Langston, who was recently appointed to the Library Maintenance Superintendent position. Offord has been with the Library since 2012 and is this year's Library Employee of the Year. His former supervisor called him "a one man army". His resume includes a long history of working with building maintenance and all that comes along with it, and he has a good safety record. Offord is a good communicator and he mentors his staff. Offord presented the board with a synopsis of our major projects that are currently going on.
  - The architect for the Avondale Library project will send the letter of Notice to Proceed to the contractor once the building permit is received.
  - The Wagner Library Addition/Renovation project is out for bids.
  - The Westwego Library project is near completion. We are in the midst of Change Order #3 and expect completion early July.
  - Plans for the statue garden near the Gretna Library will be reviewed next week. We have obtained the permit to demolish the building on that site.
  - Grand Isle library is open to the public. The roof installation is scheduled to start Monday. We anticipate the installation being complete by July 26.

Judy mentioned she attended a meeting in Westwego and about five people asked her about Westwego Library's opening date. She was informed an issue between the architect and contractor, and a decision being made by the Library regarding the quality of the roof installation caused a delay in the project. All of the interior renovations are completed; new shelving is expected to arrive next week. An opening date will be determined after we receive the certificate of completion.

- About 400 people attended last month's event launching the LoT Collection at Terrytown Library. Jessica thanked everyone that attended. We will soon launch our sewing/fabric and arts based LoT Collection at Belle Terre Library. Brigid Laborie, Branch Manager of Belle Terre and Grand Isle libraries, is here to tell us about the collection and the exciting things going on in her branches. Brigid reported since the opening of Grand Isle library there has been a lot of excitement. The staff reported the patron counts have doubled and the citizens are enjoying the library, some making the visits part of their routine. Staff from other libraries have been there to present programs: storytimes and crafts events, puzzle tournaments and puzzle swaps, and cookbook clubs. In July, staff will be there to facilitate board gaming and watercolor painting events. There is a small LoT Collection there that include bird watching kits, telescopes, puzzles, and metal detectors. In the future, she plans a textile based program, storytime events, and possibly a community garden partnership with the school next door. At Belle Terre, there will be a mini fabric/arts based collection. She has been working on expanding the community's interest in the collection and has been presenting textile-based classes that will going on during the summer. She has more projects and classes planned for the fall. A kick-off event for the LoT Collection at Belle Terre will be scheduled for some time in August. Plans for the event include loaning sewing machines; basic sewing kits; specialty rulers; ironing pads; embroidery, knitting, and crochet needles; and yarn for projects.

Patricia asked if anyone in Grand Isle said anything about renaming the Grand Isle Library. Brigid said no one has said anything to her about it, Jessica concurred.

The next meeting is July 18, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.