

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**October 17, 2023
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Mills

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Cherreen Gegenheimer, Deputy COO and Meredith Hearn, Parish Attorney for Library

GUEST: Lafitte Library Branch Manager Erica Sanders

Becky called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Irene reminded the Board that the required annual Ethics training is due soon and asked if they wanted to complete the required annual Sexual Harassment training online as a group or individually.

Thompson/Cox made a motion to schedule the November 21, Regular Library Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. to allow members to take the one hour Sexual Harassment training online as a group. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Irene introduced Lafitte Library Branch Manager Erica Sanders. Erica gave a presentation on what they are doing at Lafitte Library. She spoke about their crochet classes for beginners and advanced crocheters and displayed some of the crafts they are working on which included slippers, dish towels, fingerless mitts, cowls, and shawls. She mentioned the beginners class consists of 8 people and two people in the advanced class. She also distributed flyers about activities at Lafitte library. Jessica reported Erica has been at Lafitte Library for about a year and has great plans for the library. Erica added she will try to put together an 80's themed Murder Mystery program at Lafitte library.

- The LoT and Experience Passes launch event at North Kenner Library was successful. There were about 244 attendees, which included Margaret Thompson, and 44 uses of the passes. Jessica mentioned it's always nice to see the Board members out at library events
- Judy Mills invited Jessica to be the featured speaker at the Terrytown Civic Association meeting to speak about libraries. Terrytown Branch Manager Bet Lopreste accompanied her and spoke about Terrytown library's collection and what the library has to offer the community.
- Network Administrator Ricardo Mesa and a few of our staff participated in the Que Pasa fest to promote the library. They interacted with over 500 people to promote the library and sign people up for library cards. The fest was 10/7 and 10/8, in Lafreniere Park.
- Jessica and Public Service Supervisor Eric Krieger attended the Jefferson Chamber Education Workforce Development meeting here last week. Jessica spoke to them about the library. Afterwards, Eric led them a tour of East Bank Regional.
- Five of our libraries were used as voting sites.
- Resolutions for a sculpture at Gretna Library and substantial completion of Grand Isle roof project will go before the Council for approval at tomorrow's Council meeting.
- The Friends Big Book Sale is this weekend.
- The State Library's Book fair is 10/28, in Baton Rouge.
- The facilities report includes: North Kenner Library is fully open; some tweaks are needed, but it looks good. Bi-weekly construction meetings are being held at the Avondale library construction site. Drainage work is being done now. Library Maintenance Superintendent Offord had a discussion with the crew about the placement of the power for the gates. A pre-construction meeting for the Wagner Library Addition/Renovation project is scheduled for this week. NY and Associates is making progress with plans for the new library on Jefferson Hwy. Maintenance is in the process of seeing what is needed to install handicap accessible doors at Rosedale and Westwego libraries and finding the best solutions to improve the HVAC systems at Lafitte and West Bank Regional libraries.
- East Bank Regional library circulation and reference staff have been shifting the shelves to allow space for the Makerspace project.

Jessica estimates our total Library usage for 2023 to be over 2 million.

PUBLIC REMARKS:

Jasmine, an activist and advocate for local homeless, mental illness, and Black Lives Matter, reported on an incident she experienced while patronizing the Gretna Library and asked the Library to investigate the matter. She also mentioned she patronized the Rosedale Library and the staff was wonderful.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Cherreen Gegenheimer said she was glad to be present instead of virtual as it can be difficult at times hearing the members talk when she is virtual. She announced Victor LaRocca is the Library's new Chief Administrative Assistant; he was previously the Budget Director. She stated it's going to be a slow strategic hand off as he is solely responsible for the Parish's budget and budget process. The Parish is advertising to fill the Budget Director's position, but for now, Victor will continue in that role.

The next meeting is November 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 1:39 PM.