

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**March 21, 2023
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Conescu, Becky Knight, Judy Mills, and James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Cox and Margaret Thompson

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Cherreen Gegenheimer, CAA and Megan Grantham, Parish Attorney for Library

GUEST: Marketing/Outreach Manager David Johnson, Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi, WBR Children’s Librarian Jennifer LaBurre, River Ridge Branch Manager Richard Schmidt, and Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith.

Becky called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- North Kenner’s hours of opening were adjusted to allow maintenance to perform interior renovations. The new manager’s office is up and new network connections are in place. Our Maintenance Superintendent will seek outside assistance from a contractor to speed up the renovation.
- Contracts relative to the roof and elevator at Grand Isle Library have been signed. Technical Services have processed the new collection.
- We are still working with the Parish Attorney’s Office on the reinstallation of the roof at Westwego Library. New shelving units are in place and painting is being done. Maintenance will continue to move forward with interior renovations while the roof is being installed.
- The contract with the contractor for the Avondale Library construction project is in the process of being signed. Our next step will be to schedule the pre-construction meeting.
- We continue to move forward with the Wagner Library Addition project.
- Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi and WBR Children’s Librarian Jennifer LaBurre provided highlights on the renaissance festival scheduled for April 15 at West Bank Regional Library. The festival, *Medieval Times at the Library*, will feature Broadsword Academy, who will show case their swords. They are also planning to feature crepe making and blacksmith demonstrations, face painting, crafts, and contests for all. This festival is open to all ages and costumes are encouraged. Information will be posted to our social media page as it develops.

- River Ridge Branch Manager Richard Schmidt provided highlights on the various programming events at his branch. A patron wrote a letter complimenting staff and the book club at River Ridge Library. Richard said he and his staff enjoy helping patrons with technology and the digital services we offer. Programs ongoing at River Ridge include Digital Navigating Program, basic computer classes, water color classes, book clubs for adults, movie night, and creative writing.
- David, Marketing/Outreach Manager, reported we have a new partnership with 97.5, a Spanish speaking radio station. Our Network Administrator Ricardo Mesa recently promoted some our events on the radio station and will prepare future Library promotional content in Spanish for the radio station to air. We continue to offer English as a second language (ESL) classes in our branches. The puzzle extravaganza event at East Bank Regional library was a success.

OLD BUSINESS:

Due to a lack of quorum, voting on the updated verbiage to Article 4, section 1 of the Library Board bylaws is tabled for next month's meeting.

Lisa asked if we can schedule the April and May meeting for 4:00 PM instead of 1:00 PM. Megan suggested we keep the meeting time as is for now until the revisions of the bylaws have been made.

PUBLIC REMARKS:

Jamie McEvoy stated she submitted a Statement of Concern form regarding a book in our Children's section of the library, and inquired about why she has not received a response. She stated her opinion about the book and asked that the book be moved to a restricted area.

In response to Jamie McEvoy's comment, Megan informed her that a decision has not been made as we are awaiting decisions to be by the Attorney General and State Legislators regarding this matter. Megan also informed her the Jefferson Parish Library Board is an advisory board and not a board of control.

Kim DeAgano stated she was concerned about materials found in our collection and believes children should be protected.

Bill Shanks stated he is impressed by what the library does and he is appealing to the library to not expose children to pornographic material.

Dana Farley gave her opinion about the American Library Association's (ALA) president.

The next meeting is April 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.