

# JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

**May 16, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Judy Mills and James Simmons

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

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Meredith Hearn, Parish Attorney for Library

**GUEST:** Marketing/Outreach Manager David Johnson, Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi, Operational Services Manager Nathan McArthur, Librarians Skye Cornelia and Bethany Lopreste, and Administrative Management Specialist Angie Wollschlaeger.

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

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

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Innovation and Strategy Librarian Skye Cornelia and Terrytown Library Branch Manager Bethany Lopreste gave a presentation about Beyond Books: Library of Things (LoT) Collection, a new initiative from JPL. Community engagement is a big focus of this collection. This Saturday, 5/20, a big event will be held to launch and promote the LoT collection at Terrytown Library. The event will include demonstrations of items the collection, arts and crafts, and a food truck on site. Bethany will appear on WDSU at 10:00 AM tomorrow to promote this event. When the renovations are done at North Kenner Library, we will have an event to promote the LoT collection there. Since sewing machines are part of the LoT collection, we will have a fabric lending collection at Belle Terre Library. The Experience Passes program is also part of Beyond Books. This program will allow patrons to check out passes to cultural, social, and educational places in the area on a first come first serve basis. The places includes admission to museums and the Jefferson Performing Arts Society. One goal of this initiative is to create the opportunity for cross promotion and collaboration with other cultural institutions.
- Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi and Administrative Management Specialist Angie Wollschlaeger presented events and programs for this year's Summer Reading Program (SRP). The SRP starts June 1 – July 31 with the theme *All Together Now*. To kick off this year's SRP, Groovy Family Fun Fest events will take place June 3 at East Bank Regional and June 4 at West Bank Regional. The fun fests will include crafts, carnival games, pickle ball and corn hole, scavenger hunts, giant games, a preview of LoT, and much more. Mo's Fries food truck will be on site selling snacks. All

patrons registering for SRP will receive a limited edition tote bag and a BINGO card to mark their completions. Patrons will be able to receive prizes and raffle tickets to enter into drawings for prizes as they complete lines of BINGO. Prizes consisting of stickers, buttons, Cane's bookmarks, free books, gift baskets, and gift cards to Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Etsy were made possible by the Friends of the Library. Erin and Angie highlighted the various programs and events planned at various libraries. Scheduling of SRP programs and events can be found on the "EVENTS" tab of our website.

- It's likely we will have a soft opening of Grand Isle Library at the end of May – early June. The installation of the elevator has started and will likely be finished this week. Exterior pressure washing and interior cleaning and painting is complete. Staff went down to Grand Isle to start putting materials on the shelves and I.T. is there putting technology in place. The cabinetry is not in place yet, but the library will still be able to open. The roof project will begin soon after.
- The shelving for Westwego Library should arrive mid-June. A Change Order will go before the Council at tomorrow's council meeting for approval. Once approved, the contractor can complete the repairs and have the necessary inspections done where we can reopen the library mid to late summer.
- The outside contractor have completed work at North Kenner library; study rooms are in place and offices have shifted and it is looking good. Maintenance is painting the interior and the carpet should arrive toward the end of June at which time we will close for installation. By the end of July – early August, we hope to launch the LoT at North Kenner
- Avondale Library pre-construction meeting was held early this month. Once the Notice to Proceed letter has been issued, the contractor will be able to commence with the project and will have 365 days to complete the construction of the library.
- The Wagner Library Addition/Renovation project will soon go out for bids.
- Councilman Byron Lee recently held a groundbreaking for the East Bank Library in the River Ridge/South Kenner area. We are still working on the concept for the library and may focus on services for adults and senior citizens at that location. Patricia said she attended the groundbreaking and was invited to speak.

#### **PUBLIC REMARKS:**

James Hobden stated he lives close by and uses the library extensively. His children are grown, but he brings his grandson to library for the Lego events. He stated the Library's programs are interesting. He enjoys checking out movies from our collection. He wanted us to know that he supports the Library decision regarding the book challenges and believes the library should be an open forum for people to learn about the many walks of life.

Lisa asked if the time of the June meeting can be changed to 4:00 PM instead of 1:00 PM.

The next meeting is June 20, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.