

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**January 23, 2024
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Styons, Melissa Muhoberac, Antoinette Scott, and Shannon Kitchens

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Cherreen Gegenheimer, Mario Bazile, and Meredith Hearn

Becky called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mrs. Gegenheimer introduced Mario Bazile as the new CAA. Bob Bales introduced himself as the new Board member for Council District 5.

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- In 2024, we are moving forward on Next Level Initiatives. A new MakerSpace at East Bank Regional Library is one of them. She introduced Shannon Kitchens who spoke on the matter and described what a MakerSpace was, what kind of items it would have, and what it meant for the community. A MakerSpace is a space to make, and patrons can expect to use items that may be cost prohibitive for them to purchase themselves. Some of the items being considered for the MakerSpace include a sound booth, a memory lab for scrapbooking, items to convert old media to new technology, items to support the fabric arts, and other “high end hobby” support. It was discussed how the space would also support schools and the STEAM programs and training they provide.
- Throughout 2023, 11 Library locations received items to circulate as part of a Library of Things Collection. All patrons have access to Experience Passes as part of the Beyond Books Initiative. WiFi hotspots are circulating better than expected at all library locations. Construction on the new Avondale Library has started. The new Jefferson Highway Library is in the planning stage, but will have a focus on unique technology. Renovations at North Kenner Library added 4 new study rooms, extra storage, new paint, and new carpet. Renovations at Westwego Library included new furniture, refreshed the staff area, and fresh paint along with all new flooring throughout. East Bank Regional Library received a new Circulation desk, with other new furnishings planned for 2024. A renovation

was started at Wagner Library which will give them 4 additional study rooms, as well as an 1100 sq/ft meeting room. Grand Isle is open again and staff are being included in more Library discussions, while Library Admin is looking into TeleHealth support being provided at that location due to its distant proximity to medical support. Staff will also be offered more opportunities for Continuing Education and conference attendance.

- A review of 2023 statistics was provided which showed that all our metrics have improved over last year including over 2 million circulations and a very large increase in adult programming and attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Scott offered some answers to a few questions that Mr. Bales had submitted just before the meeting.

Mrs. Gegenheimer informed everyone that the millage will likely go up for vote in 2025.

Board members were given the current contact info sheet and asked to check it over and update their info.

Mr. Bales asked if the Library Board fielded material challenges.

Conescu/Bales made a motion to accept Becky Knight and Patricia Cox stay in their roles as President and Vice President. Motion carried.

Conescu/Cox made a motion to accept all meeting dates for 2024. Motion carried.

Conescu/Bales made a motion for the February meeting and all 2024 meetings to be conducted at 4:00pm. Motion carried.

The next meeting is February 20, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.