

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**September 19, 2023
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Cherreen Gegenheimer, Deputy COO (virtual) and Megan Grantham, Parish Attorney for Library

GUEST: Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi, Lakeshore Library Branch Manager Maria Piacun, and Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson

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

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Jessica thanked the Friends of the Library for hosting the Library Graduate reception. Becky and Friends President Marie Orth, as well as Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng and Parish Deputy COO Cherreen Gegenheimer attended the reception. Jessica said it was an interesting way for her to find out about the staff and mention something nice about the graduates. One of the graduates mentioned she earned her degree remotely and did not plan to attend the school graduation; but realized how important it was for her to acknowledge this achievement. The graduates were happy for the reception; it meant a lot to them.
- East Bank Regional library will be used as an early voting site. David will have information out about our libraries for people in line to take.
- Our budget hearing with the Parish President is this week.
- CAA Cherreen Gegenheimer was promoted to Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Budget Director Victor LaRocca is our new CAA. He will transition into his new role as CAA after he completes the Parish’s 2024 Budget.

- Members were invited to attend the North Kenner Library LoT Collection launch event scheduled for Saturday, 9/30 from 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event will be similar to the Terrytown event, but without the food trucks. We will also launch the Cultural Experience Passes the same day.
- Our Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Friends was renewed for another term.
- Jessica thanked Judy Mills who visited our Grand Isle Library and saw that one of the books on Grand Isle was in bad shape. Judy found a better copy to place in Grand Isle's collection.
- The facilities report include: North Kenner Library reopened 9/5 with temporary hours on Mondays and Tuesdays until all of the interior repairs are made. A new circulation desk at North Kenner is arriving soon. Repairs should be complete by 9/30. Westwego Library reopened on 8/7; the manager reported patrons are slowly coming in. Construction of the Avondale Library will continue depending on the results of the test piles. The Wagner Library Addition/Renovation project will start soon.
- Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi gave a presentation on this year's Summer Reading Program highlights and statistics. She reported this year's program was very successful; the total registrations and program completions doubled last year's numbers. She appreciated the prizes donated by the Friends; which helped made this year's SRP successful.
- Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson and Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith reported on recent and upcoming Adult programs. David reported West Bank Regional Reference staff will soon introduce their new initiative "Book a Librarian". This service allows patrons to reserve one on one time with a librarian for assistance. Patrons can go online or call the library to schedule time. Chris announced the Piatigorsky concert is next month.
- Jessica introduced Lakeshore Branch Manager Maria Piacun to talk about programming at Lakeshore Library. Maria gave a presentation highlighting the ongoing programs at Lakeshore Library and the planning process of implementing them. She introduced Gil Angelo Anfone who was there to talk about the screen writing, now movie program, they created. It's a real good program and they are working on ways to promote it. Patricia suggested they contact local schools drama department. Maria also spoke about how successful the Murder Mystery program was at Lakeshore Library. She got great responses and worked with other staff to have the Murder Mystery program at EBR and Rosedale libraries. Her goal is to present it at other JP libraries.

Knight/Thompson made a motion to schedule the October 17 Regular Library Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. Motion carried. All in favor.

The next meeting is October 17, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.