

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**August 20, 2024  
MINUTES**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL:** None

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Simmons

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

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Assistant Parish Attorney Brad Richard

**GUEST:** Children’s Librarians Jessica Buckey and Jennifer LaBurre, WBR Reference Librarian Nicholas Caluda, Community Engagement Manager Erin Korosi, Terrytown Manager Bet Lopreste, and Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson

Becky called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

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

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Community Engagement Manager Erin Korosi distributed final Summer Reading Program statistics. She feels overall this year’s program was successful. Next year, they will look into promoting within the schools with paper flyers for the students like they have done in the past instead of digitally. Erin mentioned overall about 5,000 snacks provided by Second Harvest were distributed at 5 libraries. Second Harvest asked if they would like to participate in providing snacks for afterschool programs at the libraries.
- Jessica introduced WBR Reference Librarian Nicholas Caluda, who is heading the Library’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Nicholas reported 11/30, is the Library’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the committee have been meeting since May planning events to commemorate milestone. Planned events include a kick-off event on 11/9 (contingent on the Parish President’s availability) that would include a talk from our very own Dr. Cyril Lagvanec about the history of the Library, a brass band performance, a presentation to the longest serving employee, displays of archival materials, and events for children’s and teens. On August 26 the committee will launch *75 days to our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. During this time frame the committee will reach out to the community for library items they may have from the past that they would like to share; use a Library logo with *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* on various items; distribute a limited run of library cards that is a replica of one of our earlier library cards; and Special Collections Librarian Gwen Kelley will present an oral history. In addition, we will host with Story Core to record community voices which will be

housed in the Library of Congress. Nicholas mentioned the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated throughout the year. Jessica mentioned she invited Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng and her mother to interview with Story Core. Nicholas added the Parish's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is next year and Library staff will be coordinating with them on events.

- Jessica introduced Children's Librarians Jessica Buckey and Jennifer LaBurre and Terrytown Manager Bet Lopreste who are hosting homeschool programming events. Bet presented an overview of the programs she implemented at Terrytown Library for Homeschoolers. About two summers ago she started building a connection with homeschools on programs that can take place during the fall in the daytime that supplement the homeschoolers curriculum at home with group based activities at the library. Such events include Storytime/Craft project, experiments, artwork, *Kitchen Kids* on Tuesdays which is an hour long cooking class, crocheting, and plant swap. Sometimes guest speakers are brought in. Her goal is to foster collective spirits. Homeschoolers are required to register for these events, which are a high demand. There is always a waiting list of at least 30 students. Because of the popularity of the Homeschoolers program at Terrytown, Bet is working with Children's librarians Jessica and Jennifer to implement Homeschoolers programs at EBR and WBR libraries. Jessica Buckey is planning a *Homeschooler Hour* program at EBR on Mondays beginning 9/9. Jennifer LaBurre mentioned they have a *Homeschooler Social Hour* at WBR on Thursdays in which she has seen some success. She will try the *Kitchen Kids* program on Fridays at WBR on a trial basis for September and October. David added he would like to have them speak on Homeschoolers programs on talk radio.
- After the Board meeting last month Gordon inquired about Reciprocal Borrowing statistics. The stats show 19,161 NOPL cardholders borrowed from JPL (Jan 2024 - June 2024) and 23,306 JPL cardholders borrowed from NOPL (Jan 2024 - July 2024). We are pretty equal extending borrowing privileges.
- Jessica met with a Terrytown Civic Association representative this morning to discuss ideas for the Library to host a birthday party in October for Terrytown's 50<sup>th</sup>. Waggaman Civic Association entered into a CEA with us to use Live Oak library's parking lot at for Trunk a Treat.
- Members were invited to view our new online events calendar and meeting room reservation platform; it is beautiful and easy to read.
- A Change Order increasing the contract for the Wagner Renovation project by \$70,000 will go before the Council next week. Wagner library closed on 8/12 for commencement of the interior renovation. Staff have already packed up the collection and technical equipment in less time than expected; kudos to the staff for that. It's likely the library will reopen early November.
- Jessica provided the Board with a list of our ongoing capital projects by district and the costs.
- The Avondale construction project is on track to open early 2025.
- Jessica, Nicholas, and the Makerspace staff visited the newly constructed St. John the Baptist Parish Reserve Branch in Reserve, LA last Friday to see what they were doing and get ideas for the WBR renovation project, which include a Makerspace. The new Reserve Branch has a Makerspace and other cool features. The branch faces the levee and is three stories high resembling a modern antebellum home with columns. There's an upper terrace on top where people can go outside, there's also a rooftop garden.

- September is Library Card sign-up month. Erin and Skye, our Outreach team, are organizing a campaign to push registrations. We challenge Board members to invite their friends and family to sign-up for a library card if they don't have one.

We have surpassed our Total Library Materials Usage for 2023 by 118,594 items.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Members made the decision to complete the 2023 Sexual Harassment Training as a group at the November meeting.

The next meeting is September 17, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.