

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**October 15, 2024
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: Lisa Conescu and James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: CAA Mario Bazile and Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUEST: EBR Associate Dr. Christie Cognevich, EBR Circulation Co-Manager Kathryn Martin, WBR Reference Librarian Nicholas Caluda, and Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson

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

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

Melissa mentioned Jessica sends regrets for not being able to attend today's meeting and that Jessica left notes to report to the Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Melissa introduced Dr. Christie Cognevich, EBR Associate. Dr. Cognevich has an MA in English literature from UNO, a PhD from LSU in English literature specializing in romantic and Victorian poetry, and an MFA in writing for young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Dr. Christie Cognevich has published three non-fiction young adult books which she showcased: *Depression: Insights and Tips for Teenagers*, *Dealing with Stress: Insights and Tips for Teenagers* and *Introverts: Insights and Tips for Teenagers*, released last month. All three books are all in our Teen Collection. She reported she hosts writing workshops at EBR and presented scholarly poetry lectures during the summer. She recently gave a lecture on Taylor Swift's lyrical literary influences and helped with the Taylor Swift fan event at EBR last month in which 180 or so people attended.
- The Library's preparations for Hurricane Francine went smooth. A few books left in book drops were damaged and the copier at North Kenner received water damage, which Ricardo took care of. Jessica praised Ricardo and his team and the Maintenance staff that stayed during the storm. We assisted with recovery efforts by hosting DSNAP at the North Kenner and Westwego libraries for a week and the SBA at the North Kenner Library through mid-November for residents that may need assistance post Francine.

- Terrytown Branch Manager along with the Terrytown Civic Association held an event this past Saturday to celebrate Terrytown Library's 50th birthday. Nearly 300 people participated in the festivities planned throughout the day. Councilwoman Jennifer Van Vrancken, Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng, Councilman Edwards, and State Representative Vincent Cox attended the event.
- Avondale construction project is on track and is expected to be completed December 31. Wagner addition project is also moving along. Our IT team will install the computers next week.
- Rotolo Consultants Inc. was awarded the bid to construct the Gretna Library Sculpture Garden.
- Installation of the HAVC at the Lafitte Library is scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving.
- Sadly, Principal Architect Russell Burghdahl passed unexpectedly. We are working on an SOQ to get another architect for the WBR renovation project.
- Library items on the Council Agenda for approval include: Renewal of the CEAs with the City of Gretna and City of Kenner for police details, accepting the low bid of Library Interiors, Inc., Increasing the contract cap for OCLC Preservation Services (the increase is necessary due to the increased cost and usage of e-books and e-audiobooks), and renewal of our database subscription – News Bank, Inc.
- Lafitte, Live Oak, and Grand Isle branch managers recently attend the Association of Small and Rural Libraries conference; they reported they learned a lot and will work to incorporate ideas learned. Youth librarians Jennifer LaBurre, Jennifer Bishop and Jessica Bucky attended the *Library Journal* Library Youth Services Leadership Summit in Ohio. Director Jessica Styons and Assistant Public Services Supervisor Jessica Gradolf attended the State Library's Administrative Librarians' Conference in Baton Rouge. Jessica Styons was asked to speak at the Rapides Parish Library's staff day event which was held yesterday.
- The Friends Book Sale is coming up.
- WBR Reference Librarian Nicholas Caluda, who is heading the Library's 75th Anniversary Committee reported the Library's 75th Anniversary is 11/30 and a kick-off event is scheduled for 11/9. Planned events commemorating this milestone include: speeches from government officials, Library Board President Becky Knight, and Friends President Marie Orth; acknowledgment from the State; presenting the longest tenure employee with a crystal award and presenting the Friends with a Proclamation; a brass band performance; a lecture from Dr. Cyril Lagvanec; displays of archival materials; a Lego event celebrating 10 years of us having the Lego Club and events for children's and teens; distribution of favor bags and several displays in all of the libraries charting their history. Thanks to the Friends who purchased a time capsule and plaque. The time capsule will be buried and members of the Board are invited to add items to the capsule. Refreshments include a cake donated by Maurice's Bakery compliments of Jean Luc Albin and a special coffee blend prepared by Orleans Coffee, which is committee is working on a label. Story Corps is working with WWNO for patrons to be interviewed at EBR and WBR libraries.

Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson reported the Library is a great place to be this Halloween. Upcoming events include Murder Mystery at five of our libraries, a lecture *Legends & Lore: Urban Legends as told by Jerry Victoriano* at Lafitte Library, teen events at Belle Terre Library, and a party for teens at EBR library. Second Harvest will continue to provide us with snacks to distribute to children at five of our libraries. On 11/2, JPL will be participating with the State Library's Book Festival in Baton Rouge on the State Capitol grounds.

The next meeting is November 19, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.