

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**November 19, 2024
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Bales

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUEST: Innovation & Outreach Librarian Skye Cornelia, Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, and Marketing Manager David Johnson

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

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Both regional libraries served as early voting sites with 21,519 residents voting early at EBR and 10,613 residents at WBR. Six of our branches were voting sites for the November 5 election.
- Last month, we hosted “Lawyers in Libraries” where attorneys offered free civil legal advice at 5 of our libraries.
- The 75th Anniversary Kickoff event was a success with 153 people in attendance throughout the day and about 175 people participating in the Lego program in the children’s area. Jessica sends big kudos and acknowledged the following staff that worked together to make the event a success: Tatyana Aubert, Deena Bedigian, Leo Castell, Megan Crozat, Jessica Gradolf, Al Heavener, Gwen Kelly, Cyril Lagvanec, Merrie Valliant, and Nicholas Caluda who are on the 75th/Bicentennial Committee. Additional staff include Shane Cardinelle, Gerald Etienne, Nicholas Sweeney, Evelyn Brown, Jessica Buckey, Sharon Robinson, Irene Lunkin, Jeannie Hobbie, and Trey Green. Story Corp will be will be at the regional libraries Friday and Saturday to interview and record the public. The recordings will go to the Library of Congress.
- Councilwoman Van Vrancken’s office reached out to us to assist in the promotion of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Litter campaign by making Litter Kits available at all of our libraries.
- Our Outreach staff hosted a JPL table at the Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge last month.

- Our current janitorial vendor wishes to cancel their contact. Library Maintenance Superintendent Offord Langston has a plan in place as we start the process to go out for bid for another janitorial vendor.
- Entergy is recommending a different meter be installed on the Avondale library. The construction project is still on target to be completed December 31. Jessica met with the Avondale Civic Association, who were excited about the new library. The library will likely open to the public February 2025.
- Wagner addition/renovation project is substantially complete; they are finishing the punch list. It's likely the library will reopen in December. We may plan to have a reopening celebration in January.
- Jessica invited members to EBR library Monday at 2:00 PM; Buddy the Elf will be visiting. They were also invited to the Friends Holiday Social on December 4 at EBR, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM.
- Staff met with members of the LA Blinded Veterans Association today to discuss a donation of a Braille Flag. The flag will be placed next to the flag in front the EBR library. We are aiming to have a dedication event with a Marine Corp Band and representatives from the State Library on January 4, Louis Braille's Birthday.
- The following resolutions will go before the Council at the December 12 meeting: approval to advertise bids for the Makerspace construction; authorization for a two year contact with OCLC for e-books; authorization for a 3 year contract for a new craft and hobby database; substantial completion of the Wagner Addition/Construction project; and a resolution to cancel the contract with Pure Elegance.

It was discussed that Bob requested a report on the Library's outreach services and reading programs and decided that those reports will be tabled for the next meeting due to his absence.

Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi reported upcoming events that included Best Bank Holiday event at WBR on December 8, Magical Yule Fest (formally Harry Potter Yule Fest) at EBR, and an upcoming visit from Buddy the Elf. Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson reported we have a new digital magazine app, Magzter and a Children's Book Fest on December 14. He also mentioned Marketing secured an advertisement in the 2025 edition of Arthur Hardy's Mardi Gras guide which will include commercials for JPL during the live cam of Carnival parades on nola.com.

PUBLIC REMARKS:

Chris Walker, an CPA with LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors, reported he attended the meeting to observe as he is interested in the Library.

The Board discussed the date of the December meeting and it being close to the holidays.

Cox/Knight made a motion to cancel the Regular December meeting. All in favor - Motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting is January 21, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM.

Members commenced with the Online Sexual Harassment Training.