

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**April 15, 2025
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gordon Wadge

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUEST: EBR Children's Librarian Evelyn Brown, Makerspace Sr. Associate Al Heavener, Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, and Westwego Sr. Associate Donna Sylver

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica introduced Westwego Library Sr. Associate Donna Sylver as the Library's April Employee of the Month; she received four nominations from staff. Donna started her employment with the library in 2010 as an Associate at Lafitte Library and worked at Belle Terre Library before settling at Westwego Library. Donna reported she grew up going to Westwego Library. Her programming events at Westwego include listening parties, matinee showings, a book club, and crafts. She said she appreciates being nominated for EOM. Jessica added that she stepped up as Branch Manager until the position was filled.
- Jessica introduced Evelyn Brown as Branch Manager for Avondale Library. Jessica mentioned Evelyn does programming in EBR Children's and has been a librarian in the Northeast and in Jacksonville, FL. She feels Evelyn's background and experience qualifies her for this position. Evelyn reported she has been employed as EBR Children's Librarian since 2013 and is looking forward to starting a new chapter in her career as a librarian. She mentioned she visited the Avondale library and toured the neighborhood. She is planning programming and ready to face any challenges that she was encounter. She mentioned Erin Korosi, her current supervisor has made her tenure in the Children's department easy for her and she is excited for this opportunity as Avondale's manager.
- About 20 library employees attended the Louisiana Library Association conference in Baton Rouge, a few of them were presenters at the conference. Patricia added she attended the conference and saw Jessica, who is also the Chairman of the LLA conference as well as the

recipient of the 2025 LLA Meritorious Service Award. She also attended a few of the presentations and reported the presentation presented by Library Network Administrator Ricardo Mesa was standing room only; and a good audience was there for the presentation by EBR Manager Daniel Perez, Maria Piacun, and Kathryn Martin.

- Reinstating Kanopy, one of our popular digital content resources, will take a little while longer due to the vendor not submitting the proper paperwork.
- During National Library Week we distributed our new staff newsletter; rolled out the new vintage library cards; and introduced the Thomas Jefferson busts. The busts, which can be decorated, will be available for purchase in the Friends store. At the unveiling event, Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng mentioned is pleased with the busts and purchased four; Council Chairwoman Jennifer Van Vrancken purchased two. Makerspace Sr. Associate Al Heavener mentioned it takes about an hour to make a bust. The busts are made of plastic resin and are available in various colors including white.
- Outreach Librarian Skye Cornelia is working with the President of the Friends on a collaboration where members of the Friends accompany our staff at outreach events. They are also working together on the Friends donating books for foster families.
- Facilities updates include: Avondale library passed the Fire Marshall's inspection and is ready to open; the Council passed a resolution to advertise for designs of a new WBR library; a generator was installed at WBR; drainage work is in progress for the Gretna sculpture garden project, pictures will be shared at the next Board meeting; Lakeshore roof replacement project was approved by GAB and will go before the Council for approval at the next council meeting; we are awaiting approval from GAB on advertising for sealed bids to construct the new Jefferson Hwy. e-Library; and construction for the makerspace at EBR are out for bids, the awarded contractor will have 120 days to complete the project.
- We recently renovated one of the study rooms to a sound proof lactation room. Members were invited to go down to view the room which is near the entrance to the EBR Children's area. One will be part of the WBR renovation.
- The millage election is May 3. Jessica and JPL staff have been attending civic association and community meetings to talk about the millage and have received positive responses. Jessica showed the Board the library calculator on our website. Members were given bookmarks and post cards about the Library's millage and encouraged to take a few to share with their family and their community. Patricia announced the Friends book sale starts May 2. They will pass out the bookmarks and reminder post cards at the sale.
- Erin's programming update will be tabled for next month's meeting where she will introduce the Community Engagement staff.

The next Library Board meeting is May 20, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.