

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**May 20, 2025
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Conescu

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Network Administrator Ricardo Mesa, IT Contract Employee Zack Marullo, Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi and staff: Special Programming Librarian Brigid Laborie-Castro and Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica introduced the Library's May Employee of the Month – Zack Marullo. Zack has been working with the library as a contract employee for a few years. Network Administrator Ricardo, who supervises Zack, stated Zack goes above and beyond and is always willing to help. He hopes Zack will consider joining JPL staff in one of the open IT positions. Zack said he was surprised about the nomination because he was not a direct Library employee, but he is honored and will always try to help staff resolve IT issues or inform someone who could help.
- Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi introduced the staff that make up the programming team: Children's Programming Manager Jennifer LaBurre, Teen Programming Manager Jennifer Bishop, Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith and Special Programming Manager Brigid Laborie-Castro. Brigid started as an Associate with JPL in 2009 at Westwego Library, left to work as a Branch Manager in Terrebonne Parish Library, and returned to JPL in 2019 as Lafitte and then Belle Terre Branch Manager. As Special Programming Librarian, she will plan programs for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Currently, on Monday's she presents an Adult storytime with crafts, she coordinates a Memory Café at Belle Terre and Lakeshore libraries where senior citizens can have a sociable experience with their peers and be in an environment where they are understood. Additional programming events will include quilting. Chris mentioned he has been with the JPL for 15 years. Some of the library's biggest programs are music, gardening and genealogy events. He presents lot of book clubs, writing clubs, and author events. He also coordinates with YMCA to present ESL, adult literacy,

citizenship, and soon ASL classes. Gordon commented the Library's collaboration with YMCA faculty to present iPhone Basics for Boomers is great.

- Erin announced the Summer Reading Program (SRP) is June 1 – July 31. This year's theme is *Color Our World* and is open to people of all ages. Kickoff events are scheduled at both EBR and WBR for June 1. During SRP patrons will be able to earn points for reading and be rewarded with prizes in return. Events and performers are scheduled at all of the libraries and have been printed on a calendar. She also announced all Homeschool events will switch to STEM and STEAM classes during the summer. At the end of SRP, we will raffle a Nintendo Switch II. Erin thanks the Friends of the Library for purchasing all of the prizes and the Switch II for our SRP.
- Jessica reported the Library's millage passed with 62% of voters voting "yes"; our last millage election passed the with 71%. We are waiting on the map of the voter results from the Secretary of the State office. Gordon and Bob both commented and presented ideas on ways the library can reach the community to inform residents about library services. Jessica shared the idea of hosting listening meetings, where we can hear from the community.
- Library contracts – Kanopy will likely be reinstated mid-June; Ricoh is the vendor selected to provide staff and patron copiers; and its likely our janitorial contract will be in place sometime in June.
- A resolution regarding the naming of the Avondale library is being presented at tomorrow's council meeting by Councilman Lee. We will be working with his staff on the building's signage.
- The construction site for the Gretna Sculpture Garden is active. Delivery of the sculpture is scheduled to arrive when its ready to be installed. The Gretna library will have to close this summer for interior renovations. The closure will coincide with the sculpture garden project; and will reopen with new furniture, freshly painted walls, and new carpet.
- Facilities updates include: Bids to advertise the Lakeshore Roof project will go out soon. Next month we expect to accept the low bid for the Makerspace Construction project. The Parish Safety Department recommended the small door to the children's area at Old Metairie be blocked until the door is adjusted to standard height; maintenance has blocked it off until a decision is made on rather to install an additional door or adjust the current door opening. Rosedale experienced water intrusion from the patio doors; maintenance wet vacuum the area and installed additional gutters to divert the rain water causing the intrusion. Libraries are prepared for this summer's heat; chillers at WBR and Lafitte were recently installed.
- The first week of June, we will review and pick from 19 architects for the WBR Addition/Renovation project. The project will consist of expanding the library for growth and adding additional meeting room spaces, study rooms, and a teen center.

Patricia announced 18 of the Thomas Jefferson busts have been sold in the Friends Store and about 7 of them waiting to be picked up. Gordon reported the Bicentennial Ball is Saturday, June 14 from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Lakeside Mall if anyone wanted to purchase tickets.

The board discussed meeting at other JP libraries and possibly having the July meeting at Avondale Library.

The next Library Board meeting is June 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.