

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**June 17, 2025  
MINUTES**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL:** none

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Simmons

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

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

**GUESTS:** Marketing Manager David Johnson, Cataloging Librarian Danielle Joachim, and Office Support Specialist Sharon Villaronga

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Jessica introduced the Library's June Employee of the Month; Truck Driver Clyde Davis. Clyde is the shipment driver for the Library that delivers books and other materials from one branch to the next. He will retire at the end of this month with 16 years of service. Melissa added when she supervised Clyde a few years back; he displayed the greatest personality, was always friendly and smiling. Branch Managers commented Clyde is very helpful and always happy to see everyone. Clyde's shift ends early, so he was not able to attend this meeting.
- Jessica introduced Office Support Specialist Sharon Villaronga who was nominated as the Library's Employee of the Year. Cataloging Librarian Danielle Joachim, who works in the department with Sharon, reported Sharon works with the Library's periodicals and subscriptions; she creates records in the catalog for all 16 libraries and assists with Interlibrary loan. Danielle reported Sharon is very helpful and volunteers to help with extra tasks.
- The Blinded Veterans Association along with the Lions Club is donating a second Braille tactile flag to the Friends. This one will be placed in the rotunda at WBR. Everyone is invited to attend the dedication event happening Monday, 6/23 at 2:00 at WBR where Dr. Cyril Lagvanec will give a lecture on Louis Braille.
- Jessica along with the Library's reoccurring Spelling Bee winner was on the Fox 8 news yesterday to talk about this Thursday's Spelling Bee. The winner of the Spelling Bee will receive a gift certificate to use at the Friends Big Book Sale in October.

- The Summer Reading Program (SRP) kick-off events were a success. Participants participated in scavenger hunts, played games, face painting and crafts. The most popular SRP event is the Dinosaur Experience, being held at various libraries. Another SRP favorite is Kitten Yoga. At the last event attendees had to be turned away because the maximum capacity of 100 had been met.
- Because of federal funding cuts, the State Library of Louisiana will be discontinuing EBSCO, one of the better State provided database. Since we have the funds in our budget, we will subscribe to the database and have it available for kids thru adults to use. The annual subscription for the database is \$55,000.
- Library contracts – Kanopy has been reinstated; and the janitorial contract is expected to be in place soon.
- At tomorrow's council meeting, the Council will vote on the name for the Avondale Library: Dr. Joseph and Constance Carroll Avondale Library. The two were citizens that contributed heavily to the Avondale community. It is likely the library will open mid-July. Also, one of the five architects selected at a meeting last week will be selected as the architect for the WBR Construction Project.
- The pedestal in the Gretna Sculpture Garden is in place for the sculpture and the study rooms have been built in inside the library. The manager is happy with the progress so far.
- Harahan library closed last Saturday for the start of the installation for a door canopy.
- Jessica will provide a report on the Library's millage election results at the next meeting.
- David reported on upcoming library events and provided the board with packets he prepared documenting what's going on at libraries by district. Similar packets will be distributed to Councilpersons at tomorrow's Council meeting.
- Jessica along with 9 other JPL staff persons will attend the ALA Conference in Philadelphia. Three staff from JPL were selected to do presentations at ALA to librarians from all over the country. Terrytown Branch Manager Bet Lopreste will be presenting on her Kitchen class and Jessica and Reference Librarian Nicholas Caluda will be doing a presentation on JPL's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.

The board discussed possibly meeting at the Avondale Library for the August 19 meeting.

Patricia/Becky made a motion to move the August 19 meeting to the Avondale library at 4:00 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Jessica invited members of the Board to attend the reception for our MLIS graduates on August 6 at 10:00 AM in the EBR Library staff lounge. The event will be hosted by the Friends.

The next Library Board meeting is July 15, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.