

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**August 19, 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, Antoinette Scott and Jessica Styons

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Megan Grantham

GUESTS: Special Programs Librarian Brigid Castro, Marketing Manager David Johnson, Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, Public Services Supervisor Eric Krieger, EBR Manager Daniel Perez, and Library Associate Candace Sayers

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

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Library Associate Floater Candace Sayers was introduced as the Library’s July Employee of the Month. Candace travels from her home in Terrebonne Parish to any of the branches to help out where needed, mainly on the west bank. As a floater, she fills in at the branches where staff is needed, and is frequently requested by managers because she is very artistic and creative. Candace stated she feels lucky to be a floater because it gives her opportunity to see and meet the people of the different communities she is working in. She added she enjoys making things and even shared her book of items she created, that impressed members of the Board. Public Services Supervisor Eric Krieger thanked Candace for all she does which translates to good experience and satisfaction.
- The Friends of the Library honored Library employee MLIS graduates with a reception on August 6th. Those employees included Atti Brecka, Leonel Castell, Jordan Herbert and Rae Vosberg.
- A ribbon cutting for the opening of the Dr. Joseph and Constance Carroll Avondale Library is scheduled for September 4 at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to attend. The new state-of-the art space was designed to meet the evolving needs of the community. Nearly 4,500 sq. ft., the library includes a meeting room with advanced technology, 3 study rooms, 12 public computers, and a spacious reading area filled with materials for all ages.

- At the ALA Conference in Philadelphia this past June, Terrytown Branch Manager Bet Lopreste did a presentation on her Kitchen class and Library Director Jessica Styons and Belle Terre Branch Manager Nicholas Caluda did a presentation on JPL's 75th Anniversary events. Both presentations were featured in the "Programming Librarian", an ALA publication.
- The State Library has an Experience Pass program with passes to the Cabildo Museum, the Presbytère Museum, and the Jazz Museum at the Mint. Outreach Librarian Skye Cornelia is working with them to get on their platform.
- Status Report: River Ridge and Terrytown libraries were used as cooling centers on July 4; JPL's various programs and events were mentioned 7 times in the media; forms are being accepted online for 3D print jobs on the new Makerspace 3D printer; and a report on the Library's millage election results by area will be presented soon.
- Facilities Report: contractors met this morning for a pre-construction meeting for the Makerspace construction project; we recently met with WBR staff to hear ideas for the renovation project; the low bidder for the Lakeshore roof project will be accepted at the September 17 council meeting; our maintenance staff is monitoring the HVAC unit at North Kenner as they await a part for it; we will soon advertise for sealed bids to construct a new library on Jefferson Hwy in River Ridge; a waterline replacement is needed in the Gretna Sculpture Garden; furniture for Gretna library is scheduled to arrive next month; we continue to wait for the new carpet.
- Melissa reported on Friday, she and other Library and Parish staff along with CAA Sarah Babcock toured a few of our libraries that can be used as potential Disaster Recovery Centers in the event of an emergency. The libraries considered were EBR, WBR, River Ridge, Wagner, Avondale and Terrytown.

Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi shared this year's SRP statistics stating this year's program was a success. Overall, the registrations were down by about 100 from last year, but the completions rates increased by about 800 from last year. Some of the most popular SRP events included the Dinosaur Experience, Kitten Yoga and crocheting.

Special Programs Librarian Brigid Castro reported she is working to update our current programs dedicated for senior citizens with plans to add more programs and events at all libraries, and plans for working with senior citizen organizations and groups that cater to senior citizen care. She mentioned upcoming scheduled senior citizen programs at JPL include gaming programs, gardening, Memory Café, and crochet groups. In September she will focus on healthy aging and have programs such as line dancing, painting, presentations by LSU Ag Center on healthy cooking, and presentations by Humana on health related topics. She mentioned she is working on forming a Senior Advisory Board consisting of library staff; one of their objectives will be to collaborate with senior organizations. Jessica added we have been working with Councilwoman Van Vrancken on adding JPL senior events to the Senior Guide published by her office. Patricia added members of the board should reach out to their council person to abreast them on senior services available at the library.

EBR Manager Daniel Perez reported he is working to have programming at the library around neurodiversity with the goal of making our library space diverse for all everyone. Last year, he organized a neurodiversity expo where they partnered with various organizations. The event included

games and crafts and an opportunity to meet neurodiversity individuals and get feedback. He and his team are currently planning to make next year's neurodiversity expo a success.

Marketing Manager David Johnson announced JPL will be on Fox 8 news Friday morning. He mentioned upcoming programs and events and added the Jigsaw Puzzle Extravaganza event was very competitive and the iPhone and Android classes for Seniors are popular. He also mentioned we have AI classes ongoing.

Patricia announced the September 16, Board meeting will be held at Avondale Library. She also announced the Sexual Harassment online training will be presented to the Board as a group at the October Board meeting; members wishing to complete the training individually should contact Irene for log in credentials.

The next Library Board meeting is September 16, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.