

JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

October 21, 2025

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: none

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Bales and James Simmons

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: EBR Assistant Branch Manager Atti Brecka, EBR Teen Associate Asrael Bourgeois, Special Programming Librarian Brigid Laborie-Castro, Marketing Manager David Johnson, and Makerspace Librarian Shannon Kitchens

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

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

Patricia welcomed council district 1 appointee Debra Cooper to the Library Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica introduced Asrael Bourgeois, our August Employee of the Month. Asrael is an Associate in our EBR Teen Center since 2021. She helps to put together lots of fun teen programs, after-hours events, and lock-ins. She also speaks Japanese. Asrael said she loves working with teens as there is never a boring day; she gets to work with home school teens and it is great to see them bond with their peers. She announced she is hosting a Tween KPop event this weekend and in November, she will host a Cookie Swap event where teens get to swap cookie recipes and cookies they have baked. Jessica commented this is an example of social innovation and of the library being a community connector. Shannon Kitchens was introduced as our September Employee of the Month. She started as a Page in 2010; later graduated from Library school, and is now our Makerspace Librarian. She is the lead person on our Thomas Jefferson bust team. Patricia announced, the Friends have sold nearly \$3,000 worth of the busts in their store. Shannon said she was surprised to have been selected as the EOM and she plans on staying and growing with the Library. The makerspace area in EBR is currently under construction, but she and her team have been putting on programs to prepare for it. The team can't wait for it to open.
- Jessica introduced Atti Brecka who was promoted to EBR Assistant Branch Manager, which is also the Reference Head Librarian, after receiving her library degree. She is known for her cute

unique shoes and dragon costume she wears at some of our events. Atti mentioned she is proud she was able to get the Reference staff to work collectively on a reference weeding project.

- The Friends' Big Book Sale is this weekend at the Pontchartrain Center.
- Belle Terre Library Branch Manager reported last weekend's Home Movie Day was a success and they have plans on hosting this type of event at other JP libraries. He reported Makerspace staff was in attendance at the event to assist patrons with the new makerspace equipment.
- Special Programming Librarian Brigid Laborie-Castro reported she hosted a Quilting Expo this past Saturday where quilters got together. Everyone was excited about the event, and although not present at the event, the Parish President was excited. Makerspace staff was there and displayed various items that can be printed on our 3D printer. The event was also attended by vendors who gave insight at the expo. The vendors included: Laura Fenner, owner of Chateau Sew; Leonard Davis, an independent machine repairman; Jackie Crovetto, member of Los Islenos Stitchers; and April Holifield, a Circuit teacher and fiber artist. Everyone in attendance hoped for the event to take place again next year.
- Facilities Report: Gretna library reopened last week after being closed two weeks for its refresh; it's likely we will have a ribbon cutting of the sculpture garden and library refresh project in November. New self-checkout machines are being installed in our libraries.
- We have two items for approval at tomorrow's council meeting: renewal of our contract with Brainfuse for online database subscriptions for HelpNow/JobNow/Vet Now and approval for a CEA with The Junior League Of New Orleans to provide personal hygiene care supplies for use by library patrons for free. If all goes well, we will be provided with hygiene products to share with those experiencing period poverty.
- Marketing Manager David Johnson reported he and Special Programming Librarian Brigid Laborie-Castro was live on WWL last Friday and this Friday, he will be at the Friend's Big Book Sale for a live segment on WGNO. He announced the Ukulele event was success and asked members to hold the date December 18, as we will host an Ukulele Holiday Concert. David will be attending the Library Marketing and Communications Conference next month where he will connect with library marketing peers and hope to come back with more ideas.
- Jessica reminded members of the upcoming Corporate Classic Walk and invited members to join the Library's team. Gordon thanked us for our partnership with the YMCA to present free classes in adult literacy, ESL, and iPhone Basics for Boomers at our libraries.

The next Library Board meeting is November 18, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Members commenced with training.