

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**July 21, 2026
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Bales, Debra Cooper, and Jackie Jones

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Lafitte Library Senior Associate Monica Ezelle and Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica announced she attended the Utah Library Association Conference in May she and four Library staff attended the American Library Association Conference in Chicago where one of our employees did presentations on customer service and improvisation techniques. Jessica also attended and recently returned from Library Journal's Public Safety Summit in Ohio.
- Our first Adults only afterhours SRC kick-off events at EBR and WBR exceeded our expectations; the events were well attended and lead to us wanting to do more Adults only afterhours events in the future. We also presented two JPL Connect Free Community Device Repair Clinics where patrons can bring in devices needing repair. Staff either assisted patrons with the repairs or recommended places to bring the device for repair.
- *Libraries with Heart* initiatives launches next month where the library will circulate blood pressure kits.
- Members were invited to attend the MLIS Graduation Reception next Wednesday hosted by the Friends for four of our employees that graduated this year.
- Library highlights include staff attending the Parish's 250th Field Day event and the Senior Citizen event. Our next big outreach event is Cultural Collision and staff will be participating in back to school events.
- Terrytown's Quail Cam is live. A naming contest to name the baby quails will be held as the eggs hatch.

- Facilities Report: Grand Isle library is prepared for Tropical Storm Bertha; Live Oak and Grand Isle libraries closed a few days last month for HVAC repairs; Lakeshore's generator is ready to go; and Terrytown's roof leak is in the process of being repaired. Outdated and rarely used materials were recently weeded from the EBR Reference shelves. The empty shelves will be removed and computers in the non-fiction section will be moved to the reference section.
- Community Engagement Librarian Erin reported there's two weeks left for the Summer Reading Challenge event. As of today, registration and completion numbers are comparable to year's. Some of this year's popular programs were Reptile Krewe and Nature on the Geaux, the magic shows, Line dancing, Bollywood Dancing, and Kitten Yoga. Teens also got to participate in the ACT Boot Camp where a teacher came out and did a practice test with participants. About 15 teens attended the teen lock-in event at WBR last weekend; the teen lock-in event at EBR is this Saturday. Upcoming events include *Dinosaur Experience* which was very popular last year and *Mermaids and Pirates* on 7/31 at WBR with the Sirens of New Orleans. Jessica added staff from the State Library has attended some of our events.
- Jessica announced Lafitte's Library Senior Associate Monica Ezelle and Library Associate Lucie Shilling as our June Employees of the Month. Their manager resigned to take the position of Director of St. Bernard Parish Library. Since then, Monica and Lucie stepped up and worked hard to host great SRC events this summer. Monica said she enjoys the community and helping them. She normally presents children's programs and events and this is her first time working with Adult programs adding it's a lot of fun. She said she enjoys it! Monica reported Lucie has been presenting the children's storytime and the *Dewy Doables* programs with the teens where they do educational crafts. The Board thanked her for all she does.

Gordon mentioned they will be coordinating with the Council on Aging on a project: Mental Health – First Aide (focusing on the elderly) and asked if our staff has training on dealing with patrons that may have mental health issues. Jessica informed him our staff attends trainings and seminars presented by Sarah Babcock. She does a lot of trainings around this subject. Gordon asked if Jessica can prepare a report of the library's statistics and community impact for each district to present as a tool to each councilperson.

The next Library Board meeting is August 18, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.