JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

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

September 15, 2026
MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Jones and Becky Knight

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Marketing Manager David Johnson, Makerspace Librarian Shannon Kitchens, Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, and Office Support Specialist Cathy Laguaite

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica reported Maintenance Field Supervisor Thomas "Chuck" Rhody was nominated "Library Supervisor of the Quarter". Chuck has been employed with the library since 2016. His positivity, willingness to take initiatives and greatness with resolving issues earned his this nomination. Melissa added Chuck recently painted the curb at Lakeshore library to draw people's attention to it to prevent future slips or falls.

- Office Support Specialist Cathy Laguaite is our August Employee of the Month. She has embraced BRIDGE, the Parish's new financial management system, is quick to take on challenges, and is great with planning her department's parties. Cathy mentioned she started her employment at the library working in EBR Circulation, was promoted to Meeting Room Coordinator, and later promoted to her position in Technical Services. She indicated she has always loved libraries. She has posted in her cubical her Summer Reading Program Certificate she received when she was 7 years old.

- Facilities Report: Harahan closed for two days earlier this month for AC repairs. Logistics for the roof and HVAC repairs at Lakeshore were worked out and are near completion. In regards to one of the comment letters about the number of handicapped parking spaces at EBR, our parking lot size requires there to be 8 handicapped spaces and two handicapped van accessible parking spaces. We have 19 handicapped parking spaces in which three of them are van accessible.

- This month is National Library Card Month. Earlier this week we did a soft launch of our digital library card and have close to 30 registrations. The digital card can be added to Apple Pay and Google Wallet.

- Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi gave an overview of upcoming programs that include College Night, coordinated by Carol Langston and sponsored by Chris Smith; the 9-25 Dolly Parton after hours event, and National Good Neighbor event. David added our digital library cards will soon be advertised on several media outlets.

- Makerspace Librarian Shannon Kitchens reported she's preparing for the makerspace's grand opening on December 13. The opening event will connect various groups together to share and offer ways for people to create. They will also have a maker faire and maker fest.

Meredith reported after the last meeting she reviewed the ordinance creating the Library Board and researched the archives as it relates to the Library Board. The ordinance was written years ago when a plan was in place to create a Jefferson Parish Archives facility; but after Hurricane Katrina, those funds were moved to fund other projects. She concluded the archives is no longer a responsibility to the Library Board.

Patricia reminded board members of their obligation to complete the annual online Ethics training individually. If there are no objections, the board will complete the online Eliminating Sexual Harassment training as a group at the November meeting.

The next Library Board meeting is October 20, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.