JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

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

October 20, 2026
MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Jones

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Collection Development Librarian Megan Crozat, Training Specialist Nivan Fields, Marketing Manager David Johnson, AHA Community Impact Vice President Chelsea Morgan, Office Assistant Tracy Romain, and Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith.

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Office Assistant Tracy Romain was nominated September Employee of the Month. Jessica reported Tracy handles the meeting room scheduling and deals with interesting and challenging questions from the public. She has a very sweet pleasant demeanor and always has a smile on her face. Irene added Tracy is wonderful to work with and is valuable to the library team. Tracy commented she is grateful for the award and honored to have been nominated.

- Jessica introduced Training Specialist Nivan Fields who we received a positive comment letter about. Nivan has been with the library for over a year as one of our IT Training Specialist. He officiated the pet wedding and has an amazing sense of humor. Nivan stated he is a pastor and has a background in assisting the community. Their department is tasked with performing outreach IT training and connecting with other agencies. They recently partnered with Jefferson Council on Aging where Nivan presented a two month computer training class to level 1 to level 4 participants on how to use Microsoft Office programs to aid with seniors who have returned to the workforce part time.

- Collection Development Librarian Megan Crozat provided the status of the start of JPL's seed library funded by the Friends of Jefferson Public Library. The seed library will allow patrons to borrow, grow and return seeds to the library. This collection is scheduled to commence in January 2027 at six of our libraries with the goal to start cultivating and planting seeds within the community.

- Chelsea Morgan, Community Impact Vice President for the Greater New Orleans American Heart Association gave a presentation on how they are partnering with Jefferson Parish Libraries to provide blood pressure cuffs in libraries, one of AHA's community based strategies to reduce hypertension. Today, 119 blood pressure devices are available for use and checkout at all 17 of our libraries. The device usage at WBR library is over 300 uses per month from July – August. In addition to the blood pressure devices, AHA will also install telehealth booths at Grand Isle and Lafitte libraries. These booths will be available for patrons to use for virtual doctor appointments and meetings with case workers.
- Jessica reported she attended the Urban Library Council Leadership Forum and three of our staff attended the Association of Bookmobiles and Outreach Services' 2026 Annual Conference. Bet Lopreste, one of the attendees, actually presented at the conference.
- Facilities Report: Wagner closed one day last week for water repairs. New trees have been planted in the parking lot at EBR. The telehealth booths is being installed at Grand Isle. Lakeshore's roof and generator project is complete. Terrytown will need a new roof.
- Melissa announced Villere Forest donated liberty trees (10 gallon Live Oak trees) to be planted at EBR. A dedication ceremony for the trees will be scheduled soon. We will be communicating with them to inquire if they'd consider donating trees for the Gretna Sculpture garden.
- Jessica reported she, Melissa, and Antoinette attended a meeting to discuss our budget in which they received good feedback. She noted 58% of the budget is marked for personnel salaries while 35% is marked for operating expenses. Our 2027 budget plans include upgrading our technology infrastructure, refreshing furniture, enhancing digital offerings, and expanding services to senior citizens.
- Jessica announced events happening soon; the Corporate Classic presented by YMCA at City Park and the Friends Big Book Sale this weekend.

Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith announced upcoming afterhours Halloween events at EBR and WBR and musical events at EBR. He encouraged members view our events calendar to see events branch managers are hosting at their libraries and the abundance of programs that are scheduled thus far for 2027.

Marketing Manager David Johnson announced Bill Wood of WGNO recently did a charming segment at Harahan library on their Chair Yoga program where participants listened to Dolly Parton's music while meditating. Since its start three weeks ago, over 250 people have signed up for digital library cards. We are taking advantage of early voting by setting up tables to register people for library cards after they have voted. JPL will be participating in the State Library's annual book fair October 31; Chris will be there to present the new book he recently wrote and David will moderate a segment amongst three authors. Terrytown will host a community swap of Christmas gifts and decorations November 2. Gretna will host Renaissance and Medieval dance lessons.

The next Library Board meeting is November 17, 2026 at which time members will complete the Eliminating Sexual Harassment training as a group.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.