

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**December 20, 2022  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox, Becky Knight, James Simmons, and Margaret Thompson

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Judy Mills

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

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Megan Grantham, Parish Attorney for Library

**GUEST:** David Johnson, Marketing & Outreach Manager

Margaret called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

Margaret shared with the board an email she received from Tracey Couret, a school librarian, who was concerned about the rise in the book challenge across the country and in Louisiana, especially St. Tammany Parish. She was relieved to see that our September board minutes reflected that JPL follows polices of the American Library Association and does not support censorship. She thanked us for standing up for the community.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Jessica reported a lot has happened since she started with JPL. On 12/5/22, a new organization chart was introduced to staff. On the new chart, all supporting departments report to Assistant Director Melissa Muhoberac, and includes newly created positions, Operational Services Manager Nathan McArthur, who will supervise Public Services, Technical Services, and the newly created Marketing and Outreach Manager position occupied by David Johnson.
- David Johnson, Library Marketing and Outreach Manager, was introduced. David said he grew up in Missouri Ozarks near a library where he spent a lot of time, so he has a passion for libraries. He is excited about our upcoming technology advancements; one being a new software to send out custom catered email blasts according to the patron’s interest. We email a survey to our patrons to find out their library interests. It will take a while before it’s in place, but we are very excited about it. We have a generous budget for next year and plan to have cooking demonstrations, more children’s programs, and debuting “Library of Things” (LoT) on the east and west bank. The LoT collection will be at North Kenner and Terrytown libraries and a smaller limited collection at Belle Terre library. The

LoT collection consist of craft and sewing items, ice cream makers, mixers, and culture passes to various places in the parish for patrons to check out.

- Our most recent program events include The Harry Potter Yule Fest, Storytime read by the Grinch, and the Piatigorsky Concert at EBR; and Cookies, Carols, and Coco event at WBR. All of the events were well attended. Staff from all over helped to make these events successful.
- New flooring will be installed at Grand Isle early in the new year. Vendors to repair the elevator and install a new roof will be selected at the January 4 Council meeting. We are waiting on a report from the roofing specialist advising how to proceed with the roof installation at Westwego library. Once the roof is reinstalled we can move forward with painting, carpet installation, and other interior upgrades.
- Staff enjoyed the Friends' Holiday Party. It was a great turnout and everyone had a good time. Patricia said the staff lounge was a great place to have the party.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

James and Lisa volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee to select 2023 officers. Margaret asked that Judy be added to the committee tentatively. She will speak with her after the meeting.

Members addressed two conflicts with the 2023 meeting dates. Due to the Mardi Gras holiday, the February meeting will be moved to February 28. Lisa proposed the December meeting date be moved to December 12.

Simmons/Conescu made a motion to accept the 2023 meeting dates revising February date to February 28 and the December date to December 12. Motion carried.

Margaret reported Creative Gardens donated three beautiful Christmas trees to the WBR library. Due to the value of the Christmas trees and short notice to go before the Council to accept the Christmas trees, Megan suggested the Board accept the donated Christmas trees in accordance to Ordinance #2-635 – Solicitation of Gifts. Members of the Board accepted the three beautiful Christmas trees donated by Creative Gardens for the West Bank Regional library.

The next meeting is January 17, 2023 at 1:00 PM. Margaret mentioned revisions to the Bylaws will be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.