

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**May 17, 2022
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox, Charles Gaudin, Becky Knight, Judy Mills and Margaret Thompson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Simmons

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Irene Lunkin and Melissa Muhoberac

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Leighton Ciravolo, Parish Attorney for Library

GUEST: Chris Smith, Adult Programming Manager

Margaret called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

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

Director's Report:

- Adult Programming Manager Chris Smith reported sound panels have been installed in the EBR meeting rooms. Starting June 1, he will resume reserving Jefferson Room for library programs. Maintenance will be moving the piano from the Napoleon room to the Jefferson room. The Jefferson room can hold 60-70 people (chairs only). Upcoming programming in the Jefferson room include: WWII Discussion Group, Old Growth Garden Rose Society, and 16 Genealogy sessions presented by Sal Serio's. Some of the Branch Managers have started programming at their branch that include movie nights, family fun events, and book clubs.
- Plans are underway to renovate Wagner Library. The project will include the addition of a meeting room, study rooms, restrooms and a generator. Richard C. Lambert is the architect for this project.
- The sound panels are now installed in EBR meeting rooms. Starting June 1, the Jefferson room will be available for rent while the Emergency Rental Assistance Program staff continue to use the Napoleon room. Both Patricia and Judy expressed their interest in reserving the Jefferson room for other groups they are members of.
- With assistance from Patron Services Supervisors, Grand Isle Library Associate Chad Willingham was selected as Library Employee of the Year. After Hurricane Ida, Chad was on the island and assisted Library Administration by opening the Grand Isle Library for inspectors and insurance adjusters. He also helped to evaluate the mold-infested collection and removed items from collection. In addition,

he and co-worker Dominick assisted with the set-up of a satellite library in the Grand Isle Multiplex Center. Residents are able to use JPL laptops and order library materials to pick up from the Multiplex Center. Maintenance has repaired the hole in the roof and gutted out the library; the next step is to have interior repairs done and order new furniture and a new collection.

After reviewing the comment letters, Judy recommended we keep track of staff acknowledged and perhaps use that information for consideration for future Employee of the Year recipients. Melissa reported comment letters about staff are shared with the employees' supervisor and are reviewed during the employee's Annual Performance Evaluation.

New Business:

An CNN article about Brooklyn Public Library offering young readers access to banned books prompted Columnist Will Sutton, of the Time Picayune/Advocate and NOLA.com to reach out to Margaret for comment about JPL's policy on banned books. She referred him to Melissa. Both Melissa and Chris Smith followed up with him, but he no longer needed the information. Copies of the CNN article, JPL's Collection Maintenance policy and procedures, and ALA's Freedom to Read Statement and Professional Ethics were distributed to the board.

Judy proposed the time of the board meetings be changed to 1:00 PM or 3:00 PM instead of 4:00 PM due to afternoon traffic. Margaret asked board members to think about the proposed time change and we make a decision at the next board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.