

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**September 20, 2022
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Gaudin

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Cherreen Gegenheimer, CAA and Megan Grantham, Parish Attorney for Library

GUEST: Ricardo Mesa and Chris Smith

PUBLIC ATTENDEE: Carolyn Cooley

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

Patricia and Margaret asked that corrections be made to the August meeting minutes. Mills/Conescu made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes as revised. Motion carried.

Margaret pointed out that the staff are being recognized in the comment letters and want to commend them for all they do. Lisa asked if the Library can invite the patrons that love the library to join the Friends organization. Irene suggested a form statement about joining the Friends can be added to the response letters.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Ricardo gave a presentation of the new website and a background summary on how the new website came about. He mentioned the "Classic Catalog" selection to view the catalog will eventually be phased out and only the Election Data System (EDS) integration view will available. The EDS is a more robust search that will give results on all the material contents available in the library. He also mentioned in the future, we will digitize our libraries to enable patrons to get a representation of where an item is located in a library. We are still working to improve and adding content to the website. Some of the members mentioned the difficult process to reserve a meeting room. Ricardo said he will look into it to see what can be improved. He asked members to email and ideas or suggestions to helpdesk@jefferson.lib.la.us.
- Chris reported staff from the River Ridge and Old Metairie libraries called him with concerns of the Convention of States group that used their meeting room. He mentioned he attended one of the group's meetings and recognized political activity. The matter was brought to the attention of the

Parish Administration and Parish Attorney's Office. Megan reported she reviewed the policy on political activity and has drafted an affidavit (as stated in the policy) for the Convention of States group to sign. As of today, they have not signed the affidavit as their attorneys are reviewing it. Chris reported the Jigsaw Puzzle extravaganza is this Saturday and banned books is next week.

- The Friends' semi-annual Big Book Sale is Friday, October 7 – Sunday, October 9 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Tomorrow they will present the Library with a donation that will be used for furniture upgrades.
- A few libraries around the state have been dealing with book challenges. We have a procedure in place and are firm when dealing with book challenges. We follow the standards in place by the American Library Association (ALA); and do not censor.
- We are short staffed throughout the library system. As of now, we have about 15 Library Associate positions vacant. Personnel recently opened the position to allow people to apply and be certified as candidates. We also have Librarian II positions vacant. Some of them have been filled with employees recently graduating from Library school. A few more of our employees will be graduating in December and we will be interviewing them to fill Librarian II vacancies.
- Cherreen reported Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng has selected a candidate for the Library Director position. She has procedures in place when appointing candidates to positions that she will follow. Members of the Library Board were provided with a copy of the candidate's resume.

Judy inquired about the plans for West Bank Regional. Cherreen informed her an architect is working on plans for the renovation project. In addition, Melissa reported the roof repairs at Westwego library will go out for bond and the roof repairs at Terrytown library will be repaired under warranty. The bids submitted for the Avondale library project were rejected and will go back out for bid soon.

Cherreen reported she met with the coordinator of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and they have agreed to move to another site on Hessmer Ave. They will likely vacate the EBR meeting room in about 8 weeks, as the building they are moving to will have to undergo minor renovations and the utilities will have to be changed over. It's possible Chris will be able to host the Harp concert in November if the move has occurred.

PUBLIC REMARKS: None

The next meeting is October 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.