

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**November 21, 2023
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: James Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Mills

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Irene Lunkin and Jessica Styons

OTHER PARISH STAFF:

Becky called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- In 2024, we are moving toward with being more accessible to the community. We have started by purchasing more accessible entrance doors for Rosedale and Westwego libraries so they are ADA compliant. There are a few others to address which we will work on in the future. We would like our youth programming to be more inclusive and have been presenting a lot of Spanish language storytime and programming events. Additionally, staff are examining ways to provide more programming for those with special needs. We continue to expand our Spanish Outreach and currently have a trainer working with our staff to teach basic Spanish language related to the vocabulary of the Library. A temporary ramp will be built in front of Wagner. The contractor had to block off the handicap parking spaces and current ramp for the renovation project. Staff is available to assist patrons curbside.
- HVAC systems at Lafitte and West Bank Regional libraries are being replaced in 2024.
- Staff at East Bank Regional continue to shift the collection to non-fiction to help accommodate the space needed for the MakerSpace.
- We are testing the LoT Collection at Harahan and River Ridge libraries and, also testing a new platform for reserving the Cultural Experience Passes.

- Our Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement with New Orleans Public Library will go before the Council for a three-year agreement. We would love to explore an agreement with St. John and Plaquemines Parish.
- Outdoor wireless access is available at East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional libraries. It will be available at the branches by the first quarter of 2024.
- Jessica recently returned from Houston, TX where she attended the Library Journal Directors' Summit. She mentioned library directors from all over the country spoke on challenges, resilience, staffing in libraries, and how to deal with crisis. She also attended the State Library's Fall Administrative Conference where she spoke about self-care for directors and library administrators.
- Members of the Board are invited to attend the Friends Holiday Social, Wednesday, 12/6 at West Bank Regional Library.
- Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson reported on upcoming events spread out around our libraries. The biggest events include the *Harry Potter Yule Fest* taking place here at East Bank Regional on 12/10, and *A Very Best Bank Holiday* event at West Bank Regional on 12/17. We will also have Paint & Sip Cocoa events at some of the branches. He mentioned he would love to see the board members at some of the upcoming events.

NEW BUSINESS

Members commenced with the 2023 Sexual Harassment online training program (1:32 PM – 2:30 PM).

Members discussed the December 12 meeting and decided to cancel the December 12 meeting due to not enough members being available to meet a quorum.

Cox/Knight made a motion to cancel the December 12 meeting due to a lack of quorum. Motion carried.

The next meeting is January 16, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.