

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**June 18, 2024
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox, Becky Knight, and Bob Bales

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Simmons

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Michele Morel

GUEST: Lafitte Branch Manager Lauren Clement and Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson

Becky called the meeting to order at 4:01p.m.

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

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Jessica’s prelude to meeting Lauren Clement, the new Lafitte Branch Manager, included details about how she is engaged in the community, how she is working with the Blood Center to have a blood drive and a program surrounding it, and how she has attended a church fair to promote the Lafitte Library. Although she started in her new position in April, Jessica is extremely pleased with how she has taken over the reigns. Melissa added that she attended the Reptile programming event there last week and there were about 106 children and adults present. Everyone seemed to enjoy the reptiles.
- You may have seen on WDSU or WGNO where it was announced the Terrytown and River Ridge libraries will be open as cooling centers June 14, the Parish’s Juneteenth holiday. In addition, a decision was made the day before the Memorial Day holiday to have those two libraries open as cooling centers. Public Services Supervisor Eric Krieger assembled a team of library staff to work on both holidays. Jessica appreciated the staff for volunteering to work and wanted to acknowledge to them: Eric Krieger, Lauren Clement, Christopher Coolman, Brigid Laborie Castro, Kshama Misra, Maria Piacun, Sang Quan, Kristen Zelenka, Michael Borne, Christie Cognevich, Skye Cornelia, David Harlan, Gwen Kelley, Michelle Ochillo, Max Pieri, and Tara Taylor. Additionally, she wanted to thank and acknowledge the IT and Maintenance staffers

Ricardo Mesa, Clifton D'Aquin, and Robert King for being available for staff working those days. We are prepping in the event we are asked to open for the July 4th holidays.

- From last November to now, residents have accessed and saved nearly \$35,000 using our Experience Passes to the WWII Museum and the Jefferson Performing Arts Center. Jessica suspects that figure may be closer to \$40,000 (due to lost data the first two months). We will be adding the New Orleans Museum of Arts to the Experience Pass collection soon.
- Nearly 1,200 children and adults attended the June 1, SRP Kick-Off parties at EBR and WBR libraries combined. To date, 3,347 people registered for the SRP and 557 have completed. Jessica added the adult SRP registrations are higher this year, than last year's registrations.
- On June 1, we also implemented our new Library Card application that allow parents to designate the levels and types of materials their minor children can have access to. A total of 168 parents registered for the library cards with restrictions. Parents can request to change the restrictions for their minor children library cards at any library.
- Roof work is complete on the Avondale Library; changes were made to the plans to include installation of a sink in staff area. Additionally, a third Change Order is being submitted for modifications for the sub-surface drainage. This will push the construction completion date to the end of the year with a possible February 2025 opening date.
- Roof work is in progress at Wagner Library and the additional asphalt parking lot is complete. It's possible we will close the library in August for interior renovations and installation of new lighting and new furniture.
- Maintenance continues to monitor the roof leak at Lakeshore library and are replacing ceiling tiles there as needed. Because the AC units are on top of the roof, an architect will be selected to compose plans for repairs.
- Upcoming projects include installation of a new generator at Grand Isle Library; installation of new roof top A/C units at Lafitte Library and installation of a new A/C at WBR Library, connections for a temporary chiller is already in place.

Jessica introduced the new Lafitte Branch Manager Lauren Clement who was hired in April. Lauren reported she started her library career as a Library Associate at WBR library in the 90s and was encouraged by her manager at the time to go to Library School, which she did. She reported she is thrilled to be back at JPL and since starting in her position as branch manager she has been going out into the community doing community outreach and promoting the Lafitte Library. The Mayor, whose office is next to Lafitte Library, has expressed several times how excited he is about the library's involvement with the community. She mentioned she has a great team of workers at the Lafitte Library; Monica continues with her beginner and advanced crochet classes and Lucie continues with the storytimes. Since doing the community outreach, in conjunction with SRP attendance at the crochets classes and storytimes have doubled. Last week's Reptile Dave program event was a huge success with about 106 children and adults from as far as Avondale and Terrytown in attendance. In

addition to the SRP events scheduled, she has secured seven additional programming events. Upcoming events include doing a small presentation about the Library to the teachers and parents at the school's "Back to School Night" and on July 2, hosting a Blood Drive and a program event around it. Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson reported the Hooping Exercise program at EBR last week had a huge turnout. Upcoming programs include the Nature on the Geaux, where kids can gently handle creatures; Pontchartrain Astronomy Society, where attendees can use telescopes to look into the sky; and a lecture on the moon. Jessica distributed copies of the 2024 SRP booklet and our new Digital Content brochure booklet. She mentioned our Digital Expo is July 16 and will see if the librarian will be available to come up and talk to the Board before their event.

Lisa reported Jefferson Dollars for Scholars had their awards presentation in the EBR meeting rooms on June 3. They felt comfortable in the space and would like to use it again next year. She mentioned they had the biggest turnout ever and presented 100 scholarships to colleges and enrichment programs collectively. Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi was a part of the agenda and gave a presentation on the SRP. Lisa extended thanks and acknowledgements to library staff that help to make their awards presentation a success. She said everyone was great!

The next meeting is July 16, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.