

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**July 17, 2024
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Conescu, Patricia Cox, Gordon Wadge, and Becky Knight

BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL: None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Bales and James Simmons

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Mario Bazile, CAA and Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUEST: Westwego Branch Manager Robert Beard, Digital Resources Librarian Megan Crozat, Community Engagement Manager Erin Korosi, and Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Digital Resources Librarian Megan Crozat announced today's Digital Expo at EBR is getting ready to start; the one at WBR is tomorrow. Both events take place in the meeting rooms at 6:00 PM. She mentioned many of the digital resources can be accessed from home or on the go on any device including smart TVs; all you need is a JPL card. She encouraged members to attend and share the announcement. At the expo there will be several stations manned by JPL staff demonstrating a variety of our digital resources, IT staff promoting the Library's training classes, and representatives from some of our digital content vendors to demonstrate their resources. Such vendors include Brainfuse JobNow, VetNow, and HelpNow; EBSCO Learning Express; Data Axle; and OCLC (one of our new eBook and audiobook vendors). Jessica mentioned Megan spent months arranging this event and put a lot of work into making this a successful event.
- Jessica introduced new Library Board member Gordon Wadge who was recently appointed by Councilman Liljeberg. Gordon was born and raised in Jefferson Parish and currently serves as CEO & President of YMCA of GNO and before that he was the CEO of Catholic Charities. Gordon said he is happy to serve as a Library Board member.
- Westwego Branch Manager Robert Beard was also introduced. He is a former teacher; and prior to being promoted to the manager position, Robert worked at EBR, WBR, and Westwego libraries. Robert stated he is looking forward to planning new events at Westwego as a way to bring in fresh faces. He has been learning the community and has plans to pitch a program for patrons to make their own spices next year, start an Anime Club, and perhaps a crocheting program.

- Terrytown and River Ridge libraries opened as cooling centers for our holidays, 7/4 and 7/5. A total of 207 people visited the libraries those two days.
- Facilities Report: A mechanical inspection was performed on the plumbing and water pipes today at the new Avondale construction site. Grand Isle's generator is being replaced. The bid opening for the Gretna Sculpture/Garden project is 8/1. The Mayor of the Town of Jean Lafitte and Councilman Edwards worked together to start the process to change the name of the Lafitte Library to Ruth Perrin Adam Lafitte Library. The name change was read into summary at last week's Council meeting and will be finalized in August. An Engineer will prepare plans for the HVAC unit on Lakeshore's roof to be removed and reinstalled in order for the contractor to install a new roof. Architectural drawings for the Makerspace at EBR are being finalized; we will start working on the plans for the electrical wiring and data lines soon. The stucco installation is complete and the asphalt parking lot is being corrected at Wagner. Jessica will seek authorization from the Parish Administration as we will have to close the library for about 6 weeks starting in August for the two parts of the building to be put together.
- Status Report: Live Oak closed early last Friday and all day Saturday due to an incident that occurred in the parking lot and ended up inside the library. Jessica invited the Board to attend the Friends reception for library staff that recently graduated from library school. The reception is 8/14, at 10:00 AM in the EBR library staff lounge. We may have a representative from the Library's 75th Anniversary Committee attend our August meeting to give a report on plans for an event commemorating the date along with the Parish's 200th year anniversary. We will have a library card sign up month soon. Jessica reported she attended the 2024 ALA Conference in San Diego, CA; one of her take-a-ways is we are moving in the right direction as a Library system.

Community Engagement Manager Erin Korosi reported the Bluey Bash event was successful and that they are considering have one at WBR, possibly around Christmas time. Registration for SRP is slightly lower than last year's numbers, but the completions are higher this year. Final numbers of completions will be provided at the next Board meeting. We will continue as a Second Harvest feeding site distributing snacks through the end of July. Staff reported they enjoy doing storytimes at the JPPR summer camps.

Marketing & Engagement Manager David Johnson reported the Adult Spelling Bee in conjunction with honey being used as an ingredient in a cooking demonstration and a cocktail presentation was fun, well attended, and a success! A second event is scheduled for 7/24 at WBR. Upcoming programs include a series of genealogy presentations at Old Metairie and EBR libraries; an event around Taylor Swift's romance poets novel, which will be filmed; dog training sessions; Hoop dancing; a plant swap at Terrytown and a puzzle extravaganza at EBR. David and Angie will be appearing on WWL TV soon to do a televised demonstration making a Cherry Blossom Twig.

Jessica announced we will be adding an Engagement Department to our organizational structure. We are finalizing the positions and may be prepared to further discuss this new addition at the next meeting. She pointed out if our usage continues at the rate its going now, we should exceed our 2023 Total Usage by August.

The next meeting is August 20, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.