

**RAPIDES PARISH LIBRARY
BOARD OF CONTROL
MINUTES**

August 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order by President Glenn Rechs at 3:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Huie-Dellmon House, 430 St. James Street, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Board members present were Dr. Pat Barber, Mr. Eddy Boddie, Mrs. Ann Heath, Mrs. Le' Anza Jordan, Mrs. Diane Lawton, Mrs. Linda McMahon, Mr. Glenn Rechs, Mrs. Susie Smith, and Mr. Gregory Walker.

President Rechs led the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked for a moment of silence. Mrs. McMahon moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Boddie seconded, and the motion passed. Mrs. Lawton moved to approve the June minutes. Mrs. McMahon seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Rogge then introduced new Board member Le' Anza Jordan, who would replace Alice Story as District I's representative.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Holsomback reviewed revenue and expenses for June and July 2012. He said we received \$39,633 in ad valorem taxes in June and \$861 in July, which brought us to \$4,115,265 in ad valorem revenue for the year. We also received \$8,192 in E-Rate income in June and \$10,416 in July, which brought us to a total of \$145,612 in E-Rate income for 2012. Income totaled \$62,240 for June and \$21,031 for July 2012. This brought year-to-date income to a total of \$4,559,211. He said no expenses really stood out in either month, and he mentioned the \$212,082 spent on materials in 2012 was on track. Year-to-date expenses for 2012 totaled \$2,982,003. Mr. Holsomback said all income and expenses were normal for January through July 2012. Dr. Barber moved to approve the July 2012 financial report. Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Rogge reported that circulation moving averages had improved from a decrease of 3.7% in June 2012 to a decrease of 3.5% in July 2012. He also reported that the moving averages for transactions moved from a 1.71% increase last month to a 3.39% increase this month; this shows we're doing better at an increasing rate. He reported that the tax election preparations are going well. Mr. Rogge then referred the Board to an early version of an

electronic billboard ad. Dr. Barber said it was too busy and should have fewer words; Mr. Walker agreed that we should keep the message simple. Mr. Holsomback said we would have ads on two electronic billboards, one on MacArthur Drive and the other on Highway 165 N, near the old Jump 'n Jive building. The billboard ads would cost the campaign \$900.

Mr. Rogge said one of the fire districts, which included about half the parish precincts, would have an item on the ballot where they asked to spend their existing tax dollars in a slightly different way. He also mentioned the Coliseum tax would be on the ballot, and that it was already receiving a negative buzz from the press and community at large. He was confident neither of these items would have a significant negative effect on our renewal, stating that we'd had as many as five tax items on a previous ballot, with the Library still getting its tax renewed.

He showed the Board two proofs for the yard signs: one was blue ink on white, and the other was green ink on white. Board members discussed which sign they preferred as well as possible changes to the text or graphics. Mr. Rogge said we would order 1,000 yard signs and would probably order another 500 after the first batch has been used.

Mr. Rogge said a week or so ago, the parish underwent property reassessments. This is a process done every four years. The Police Jury rolled forward the property taxes in most voting districts because property values have gone down since the last reassessment. They are required by law to do this, which allows them to collect the same amount as before, but acts as a tax increase. The Library's one mill tax became 1.03 mills, and the other one went from 6.09 to 6.26. The Jury then had the option of rolling the taxes back again, which would have prevented the tax increase, but also cost them and us revenue. They never do that. For the few taxing districts that had an increase in property values in their areas, the Jury was required to roll the taxes back, by decreasing the millage to a number that would pull in the same revenue as the old millage had before. This prevents increases in revenues for taxing bodies. For example a two mill tax might become 1.9 mills if that would bring in the same amount. The Jury then rolled those few millages forward again to again give the taxing bodies more revenue. They mentioned that this is how they stay caught up with inflation. None of these changes impacts taxes on utilities or new construction. They are figured separately.

Mr. Rogge said the state had recently passed a new law on sex offenders that would go into effect January 1. This new law includes libraries as a public place where sex offenders can't go. The law is only for those who committed an offense toward a child who is thirteen years old or younger; however, sex offenders aren't separated into those who offend children in one age group versus another. This, of course, leads to a lot of gray areas. Mr. Rogge emphasized that although libraries would now be required to create policies on sex offenders, they would not be responsible to enforce the law. He further stated that those with sex offences would be accountable for complying with the new law.

Mr. Rogge concluded his report by saying it was time to apply for the Martin Foundation grant again. He reminded the Board that the 2011 grant was used to replace the Martin Branch's air conditioning system. He said the 2012 money would probably go toward replacing the carpet.

DIRECT SERVICES

Assistant Director Laura-Ellen Ayres said she wanted to highlight the Cards 4 Kids program, which had just finished its first year. She said we have enrolled students at Glenmora Elementary, Alma Redwine Elementary, Mabel Brasher Elementary, Acadian Elementary, Plainview High School, and Northwood High School. Through this program, we have registered 383 new student library users, and we continue to go forward by adding one or two new schools each year while continuing to work with those previously mentioned. Our eventual goal is to reach every school in the parish school system.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Outreach Services Coordinator Tammy DiBartolo said plans were underway for this year's Big Read. This is the fourth year RPL has participated in this program which is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH). This year's novel is *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien; it tells the stories of soldiers during the Vietnam War and the things they carried into battle. The kick-off event will be held on September 22 at Renegade Harley-Davidson in Alexandria. The Bookmobile will be at this event to give tours, and staff will issue library cards. The Friends of the Library's Soiree in the Stacks will once again be held in conjunction with the Big Read. This year the soiree will be held on November 2, and entertainment will be provided by Judy Caplan Ginsburg and David Marler, who will sing songs from the time period of the Vietnam War.

She also said RPL, in conjunction with LEH, would host another six-week Readings in Literature and Culture (ReLiC) course beginning on September 6 at Westside Regional. She said we'd be hosting another Prime Time Family Reading Time program through a grant from LEH for families who may be "at-risk." This program will begin on October 8 at Westside Regional and will last for six months. Another successful Summer Reading Program has come to an end. She said they were still working to wrap up statistics; these figures would be ready at the next Board meeting. She also mentioned she and her staff did a three-day training for the Cenla Community Action Head Start. This training included parents and teachers of Head Start children.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux reported that Webmaster Chester Mealer and Systems Specialist Roland Rodrigue attended a three-day workshop in Natchitoches that focused on basic

topics in Networking; this was part of the BTOP classes. She also said Bill and Roland installed new public computers at Boyce. Gunter, Robertson, Martin, and Hineston branches are the only ones left to get this update. Mrs. Primeaux said Assistant Reference Manager Faith Johnson had asked her to teach a keyboarding class to the Tween Advisory Group; Mrs. Johnson also asked IT Instructor Trina Kirk to teach a PowerPoint class for teens in October. She concluded by saying that Mr. Mealer would speak about online media on a budget at the Louisiana Support Staff Association of Libraries (LaSSAL) Annual Conference in September. She said he was also scheduled to speak about downloadable eBooks and audio books on KLAX, a local TV station, in a couple of weeks.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Administrative and Public Relations Specialist Jana Fryday said the annual Friends book sale went very well. They made \$6,030, a 12% increase from 2011. They had also collected \$1,358 in membership dues so far in 2012. Friends just gave the last \$4,000 of their donations to the Library Tax Campaign, and that represented the bulk of their budget for 2012-2013.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rogge said after reviewing the art display policy and the RPL mission statement, the administration saw no need to revise these policies. He asked the Board to ratify that. Dr. Barber moved to approve both the art display policy and the Library mission statement as they were written. Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2012, at the Huie-Dellmon House.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Steve Rogge
Secretary

Glenn Rechs
President

August 2012