

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
November 5, 2019**

Minutes

A special meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order by Board President Greg Walker at 4:00 p.m., Huie-Dellmon House, 430 St. James St., Alexandria, LA.

Board members present were: Ms. June Arrington, Mr. Michael Fairbanks, Ms. Lana Havens, Ms. Le'Anza Jordan, Ms. Linda McMahan, Mr. Ralph Roach, Mr. Greg Walker and Ms. Laura-Ellen Ayres.

Absent: Ms. Dana Cox and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas

Agenda

Ms. Havens made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. McMahan seconded and the motion passed.

Director Search Committee

Mr. Walker announced that the Director's Search Committee had completed their duties and turned the meeting over to Ms. McMahan who is chair of the committee.

Ms. McMahan said that four candidates were interviewed and Samantha Wallace was the most qualified. The committee is nominating Ms. Wallace as the new director.

Mr. Walker said an anonymous email was sent to the board members suggesting that Ms. Wallace did not have the necessary education to qualify for the director position. Human Resources Administrator Jackie Brown presented the Board members with copies of the documents that Ms. Wallace submitted to the Directors Search Committee during the interview. It was explained that Ms. Wallace will not be able to take the State of Louisiana Library Director's exam until her education meets the guidelines of the test.

Mr. Walker made a motion to offer Ms. Wallace the position of Interim Director with the understanding that she will obtain the necessary education and pass the Louisiana Library Director's exam. Ms. Mc Mahon seconded.

The State of Louisiana Library Board issues an exam to receive certification. In order to take the test the candidate is required to have an MLS or MLIS from a university with ALA accreditation. The degree listed on the Ms. Wallace's transcript is Masters of Science in Media Library. Mr. Walker said that the Associate Dean of the University declared it an MLIS, but the State of Louisiana does recognize it.

It was noted that other parish libraries have interim directors who have not completed the education nor taken the exam.

Ms. McMahon said that the process of the committee is to report to the board. The discussion within the committee was meant to be confidential until the committee announced the candidate at a scheduled board meeting. She said that she has received calls and messages about the recommendation before it was brought to the board. Ms. Havens said that she supported the committee, but would like to know more about the candidate. Ms. Arrington indicated that the entire group should be included in the interview process.

Mr. Walker reminded everyone that the board wanted the best for the Library and should respect each other during this process.

Ms. McMahon reported that Ms. Wallace has twenty months experience at a regional library as well as experience in a college library. Her degree is from Nova Southeastern University. Discussion continued about the education required and the education listed for Ms. Wallace. Ms. Brown said that a transcript was provided to her and she will follow up with the university about the degree. The introduction that Ms. Wallace gave to the committee, states that she has a MLIS.

Mr. Walker noted that the committee was rushing to accommodate her or any prospective director. The candidate will be responsible to wrap up their current job requirements and take care of family matters. Mr. Walker asked that the vote be tabled until the regular board meeting on November 15th. This will allow time to gather additional information about the education requirements.

Ms. Havens made a motion to table the vote. Mr. Fairbanks seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brown will provide copies of the documents that Ms. Wallace submitted to the Directors Search Committee during the interview to the absent board members. Board members expressed concerns about personal and confidential information being disclosed.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Laura-Ellen Ayres
Secretary

Greg Walker
President