

**RAPIDES PARISH LIBRARY  
BOARD OF CONTROL  
MINUTES  
May 18, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of Control was called to order at 3:30 PM in the Huie-Dellmon House by President Susie C. Smith.

Board members present were Mrs. Susie C. Smith, Mrs. Diane Lawton, Mrs. Pat Barber and Mrs. Alice Story. Absent were Mr. Glenn Rechs, Mr. Eddy Boddie, Ms. Lee Moore and Mrs. Linda McMahon. In the absence of a quorum, no votes could be taken. Therefore only informational reports and discussion of items took place.

Director Steve Rogge was asked to give his report. Circulation for April was down significantly, but overall transactions were up, due to continued heavy usage of the Library's computers for Internet access and various programs. Rogge announced that the coffee shop at Westside Regional Library had closed. The manager was losing several hundred dollars each month due to low sales. We released her from her contract. We have put out an urn of coffee as an interim measure, and are investigating vending machines as the next method of service. Rogge also reported on an automobile accident at King Branch on May 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the water barriers stopped the vehicle. Although the barrier was destroyed, there were no injuries or damage to the building. Rogge announced that he has been invited to speak to the Alexandria Lions Club on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He anticipates receiving their annual donation for large print books. Rogge will be out for a few days beginning June 7<sup>th</sup> when his wife has surgery.

Assistant Director for Direct Services Laura-Ellen Ayres reported on new hires at Gunter and Johnson branches and at Westside Regional Library. She described the relocation of the outdoor brick sign at the McDonald Branch, and added additional detail to the Director's reports on the King Branch accident and coffee shop closure.

Karla Kirby reported on the upcoming kickoff of this year's Summer Reading Program.

Assistant Director for Outreach Services Kelly Kingrey-Edwards reported on the planned adult Summer Reading Program.

Laura-Ellen Ayres gave an introduction to her proposal to change our Materials Circulation Policy to impose a limit for the first time on the total number of items that a customer may have out at a time. She recommended 50 as that number. A very few customers check out large numbers of books and other items and keep or sell them.

Business Manager Jimmy Holsomback introduced a set of proposals for reassigning monies from the Library's set-aside funds to address two urgent needs. The Administrative staff is recommending taking \$200,000 to immediately effect the re-roofing of Main Library. We had hoped to use the sale of the Fuhrer property for that purpose, but the property hasn't sold yet. Whenever it does, we can reimburse the set-aside funds. Main's roof is leaking again.

Administration also recommended the transfer of ca. \$100,000 to add 33 more parking spaces at Westside. Even when there are no meetings, the existing parking lot is often inadequate. Complaints from customers are continual.

Holsomback showed how \$300,000 could be removed from the set-asides with minimal risk. There was general support from Board members present for the re-roofing plan. In regard to the parking lot expansion, some concerns were expressed: that we've already spent a great deal of money at Westside and shouldn't spend more until needs at other facilities are addressed; that customers of other branches might object. It was suggested that we consider charging a fee for meeting room use. In partial response to those concerns, it was pointed out that new branches had been built in Glenmora and Hineston and that considerable remodeling and repair work had taken place at several other facilities in the past two years: Main, King, Martin, Gunter and Robertson.

It had been hoped, that if the Board responded favorably to all or part of the funds transfer, that the project(s) could be introduced at the Police Jury meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Missing that date would mean a further two month delay since the Jury doesn't meet in July. Rogge proposed that the Board of Control meet again on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, in an attempt to achieve a quorum in order to address this and the other business on today's agenda. Those present agreed.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Control will be Tuesday, June 15, 2010.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rogge

Secretary

Susie C. Smith

President