Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
February 15, 2022

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 4616 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Michael Fairbanks.

Board members present were Mr. Fairbanks, Ms. Le'Anza Jordan, Mr. Greg Walker, Ms. June Arrington, and Mr. Ralph Roach. Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Dana Cox, and Ms. Lana Havens were absent. Mr. Morris Taft Thomas attended virtually by phone.

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and six members of staff.

Mr. Fairbanks led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Agenda
Mr. Walker moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Minutes
Mr. Roach moved to approve the January minutes, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report
Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the January financial report, saying that next year's budget is being generated as the current year's budget progresses. 2022 began with a sizeable ad valorem revenue payment. Notable expenses were payments on long term debts and a state fee for the retirement system, which was over budget.

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report
Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reported the following:

- The Library has declared a borrowing agreement with Central Louisiana Technical Community College.
- Through a partnership with the Alexandria Zoo, the Library will begin offering family passes to the zoo for check-out at all branches.
- All branches now have free COVID-19 home testing kits available on request.
- French Heritage Day will be held at the Kent House in April.
- The architectural firm will be covering the cost of replacing the toilets at Boyce.
- The Programming & Outreach Department is being restructured and expanded.
- Statistics show programming attendance is nearing pre-pandemic levels.

Direct Services Report
No report.

Human Resources Report
Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown introduced Public Relations Intern Sadi Jones to the Board; Ms. Jones is working toward a degree in Computer Science and will be assisting the PR department with their equipment and other duties. Hiring is in process for the Programming & Outreach expansion.

Outreach and Youth Services Report
Library Director Celise Reech-Harper announced that Karla Kirby will be heading the Programming & Outreach Department. Ms. Kirby was absent from the meeting but submitted a written report to the Board stating her goals and expressing excitement for the opportunity to grow RPL's programs and community involvement.

IT Report
Ms. Reech-Harper reported on behalf of Systems Manager Janie Primeaux that an outside consultant was called in to assess the slow Internet speeds. IT is now working through a list of possible causes to try and resolve the issue.

Public Relations Report
Public Relations Officer Jennifer Smarr revealed the Strategic Plan pamphlet design to the Board, saying the final product will be printed on high quality paper and distributed at all branches, through Outreach, and through various community businesses and organizations. She also presented fliers for two upcoming speaker series: The Lifelong Learners STEM series and the Friends of the Library-sponsored Heart of Cenla cultural series. All sessions will be held at Westside Regional Library from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on their scheduled date.

RPL's online business listings have been synced across all major browsers. Upcoming event promotions include National Library Week, the French Heritage Festival, and Easter events.

Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

The next meeting will be on March 15, 2022 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper   Michael Fairbanks
Secretary   President