

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
June 21 2022**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:40 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Michael Fairbanks.

Board members present were Mr. Fairbanks, Ms. Le’Anza Jordan, Mr. Gregory Walker, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Lana Havens, Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, Mr. Ralph Roach, and Ms. June Arrington. Ms. Dana Cox was absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and eight members of staff.

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

Agenda

Mr. Roach moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Havens. On unanimous vote, the motioned passed.

Minutes

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the May minutes, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motioned passed.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the financial report, which showed that the 2022 budget is still on track as of May 31, although gas and equipment prices continue to rise due to economic factors and increased vehicle usage.

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

Director’s Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reported the following:

- The Payroll system is currently being updated and will remain on a dedicated server.
- A new generator has been ordered for the Bookmobile and should arrive within six months.
- \$20,000 in grant funding is expected to assist with the SLOL/LOUIS digital inclusion project.
- The Louisiana Library Association Conference will be held on July 7-9 in Alexandria. Approximately 200 people are expected to attend.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton expressed her appreciation for her staff’s willingness to cover shifts this summer as the Summer Reading and children’s lunch programs have significantly increased traffic to the branches.

Human Resources Report

No report.

Programming and Outreach Report

Adult Services & Outreach Manager Tara DeMarco shared her department's enthusiasm for this year's "Ocean of Possibilities" Summer Reading theme, the return of live entertainment to the branches, and many recent and upcoming community outreach and partnership projects.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux was happy to announce that internet service has been fully restored. She credited new Systems Administrator Monte Eddlemon and her IT team's hard work for the breakthrough. They are now working to revise the Windows Update and system backup plans.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Officer Jennifer Smarr presented social media usage numbers, which show 44,940 people were engaged in RPL social media over the last 28 days. She continues to promote summer programs, including the annual Back-to-School Supply Giveaway, which will be held on July 20 at the Main Library.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Michael Fairbanks
President