

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
October 11, 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 Vice President Le'Anza Jordan.

Board members present were Ms. Jordan, Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, Mr. Ralph Roach, Ms. Dana Cox, Mr. James Morgan, Ms. June Arrington, and Ms. Lana Havens. Mr. Michael Fairbanks and Ms. Irene Hobbs were absent.

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

Ms. Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Ms. Havens moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the September financial report. While the 2022 budget is still on track, some updates are needed to ensure it accurately reflects necessary accounting changes. The amended budget will be presented by the Finance Committee.

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

Director's Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reminded the Board that they are asked to attend a Board training session on November 15. The session will be led by representatives of the State Library and will begin at noon. Committee Preference forms should be completed and returned by the same date.

Staff Training Day will be held on November 7 and is mandatory for all Library staff.

Direct Services Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported that there has been some damage to Johnson branch materials due to the worsening conditions of the building. There has also been theft and vandalism related to the air conditioning units at the King Branch.

Human Resources Report

No report.

Programming & Outreach Report

Youth Engagement and Literacy Manager Craig Jones announced that Tales Along the Bayou will be held at Kent House on October 28. The format will be storytelling and music for smaller children followed by an intermission and scarier stories for older children. The Programming and Outreach Department has also been busy visiting the Alexandria Zoo, Bolton High School, and First United Methodist Daycare.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux said new tablets and laptops have been purchased for all branches. These devices are used not only to showcase Library resources but also for inventory and weeding projects.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Officer Jennifer Smarr will be promoting Tales Along the Bayou, Lawyers in Libraries, the second annual Tiny Art Show, Homework LA, and the Northstar Digital Literacy program.

New Business

Finance Committee Chair Ms. June Arrington brought before the Board the amended 2022 budget. Adjustments were made to reflect changes in janitorial services, telephone costs, and the rise in gas, maintenance, and service prices across all sectors. The unexpected expenses have been balanced with e-rate credits, ad valorem refund payments, and the unused portion of select program budgets.

Ms. Havens moved to approve the 2022 amended budget, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Michael Fairbanks
President