

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
March 21, 2023**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:35 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Le'Anza Jordan.

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

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones, eight staff members, and 15 members of the public.

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

Agenda

Mr. Fairbanks motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Minutes

Ms. Havens motioned to approve the January minutes, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Public Comments

Three members of the public spoke on agenda item 15d - Discussion of the Formation of Policies & Reconsiderations Committee.

Service Awards

ILS Administrator Trina Kirk was honored for twenty years of service to the Library.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the financial report for January and February, which accounted for usual operational expenses and the moving of the book drop at Main Library. Mr. Fairbanks motioned to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Havens. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reported on maintenance upkeep, participation in the state litter abatement program, and the Historic Rapides Parish Library archival project in partnership with LSU and LSUA's Bolton Library.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones reported that the Attorney General's office responded to the Library's request for advisement by declining to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of the proposed Collection Development Policy amendment discussed in the last two meetings, and by recommending the consideration of additional policy language and the monitoring of Senate Bill No. 7, which is pending legislation in the 2023 Regular Session that relates to these issues. Mr. Jones provided a copy of the Attorney General's letter and Senate Bill No. 7 to all Board members, advising that the language of the bill would be subject to change as it goes through the legislative process.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton updated the board on the branch refreshing project, which includes plans for more and larger seating areas at some branches to promote use by family and study groups.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented Westside Regional Assistant Manager Rachel Dugan for ratification. Mr. Fairbanks moved to ratify the appointment, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming and Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported that the first post-pandemic Creative Con was a success, and the Eggstravaganza Easter egg hunt event will return to the Huie-Dellmon House this year.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux reported that regular maintenance updates to the ILS system and the online catalogue are scheduled for the end of March.

Public Relations Report

Celise Reech-Harper announced that the search for a new PR Manager is underway.

Old Business

Ms. Arrington moved to accept the December 2022 financial report, seconded by Mr. Fairbanks. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

New Business

Finance Committee Chair June Arrington brought before the Board the amended 2023 budget. Adjustments were made to reflect increased rates in goods and services, higher estimated programming costs, and the addition of previously omitted line items. These increases have been balanced by decreases in other areas. Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the amended 2023 budget, seconded by Ms. Havens. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Arrington reported that vehicle orders utilizing the state contract are no longer being accepted for this year. In order to obtain vehicles, the Library may either purchase them at retail price or wait for next year's contract to open. Ms. Hobbs moved that the Board table further discussion of vehicle

purchases until more information can be gathered. Ms. Cox seconded, and on unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Regarding renewal of the library's CD investments, the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the library's existing CDs remain with Evangeline Bank, and any new investments be entrusted to Regions Bank for a trial period. Ms. Hobbs moved to adopt these recommendation, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Regarding the formation of a Policies & Reconsiderations Committee, Mr. Fairbanks moved to table further discussion of the matter until the conclusion of the 2023 legislative session, particularly when Senate Bill No. 7 is decided. Ms. Cox seconded, and on unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Jordan moved that an executive session be added to the agenda for approval. Ms. Arrington seconded, and on unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Executive session was entered at 4:35 p.m. and ended at 4:48 p.m.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan
President