

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
September 19, 2023**

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, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by Vice President Lana Havens.

Board members present were Ms. Havens, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Suelynn Mickey, Mr. James Morgan, and Mr. Ralph Roach. President Le'Anza Jordan, Ms. Dana Cox, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas were absent.

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

Ms. Havens led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Upon review of the July minutes, Mr. Morgan called the record into question, asserting that it was Ms. Havens who motioned to set a special meeting of the board in August and Ms. Arrington who seconded, not the other way around as it was written. After brief discussion, Mr. Morgan motioned to table the approval of the minutes pending review of the video recording of the July meeting. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the minutes of the August special meeting, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper presented the July and August financial report, which included expenses for safety upgrades and debris removal at some locations and increased mileage expenditures. Interest rate increases on CD renewals and grants received for targeted projects are helping to balance these expenses.

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

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper shared information on facility security updates, Fall Staff Day, and the upcoming rollout of the Vega Program events calendar in November.

Direct Services & Human Resources Reports

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton reported that branch managers are currently creating 2024 budgets and preparing for fall events.

She then called Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown forward to join her in recognizing Hineston Branch Circulation/Reference Clerk Jeanette Hayward, who will retire in October, for her many years of excellent service.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming and Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reviewed September events and promoted Tales Along the Bayou, which will be held this year on October 27.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced updates to the Sierra ILS system and reported on the progress of the AT&T internet expansion project.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller reported on the ongoing Library Card Sign-up Month campaign, the success of the online Event Guide, and upcoming fall events.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Michael Fairbanks ended his second five-year Board of Control term on September 1. He was recognized by the Board and library staff for his service and dedication with much appreciation.

Ms. Suelynne Mickey was welcomed as the new Board of Control representative for District B.

Ms. Reech-Harper presented a list of proposed 2024 library closure dates for holiday observances and training closures. Mr. Roach motioned to approve the closure dates, seconded by Ms. Mickey. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Committee Interest Forms for 2024 were included in all Board member packets. Ms. Reech-Harper asked the Board to return the completed forms to the business office by October 20.

On behalf of Board President Le'Anza Jordan, Ms. Reech-Harper announced the members who will serve on the newly formed Policies and Reconsideration of Materials Committee: Mr. Ralph Roach, Ms. Irene Hobbs, and Ms. Dana Cox. Mr. Morgan asked for clarification that these members were selected by Ms. Jordan, which was confirmed by Ms. Havens and Ms. Reech-Harper. Ms. Hobbs asked if the appointments were only for the remainder of 2023, which was also confirmed. New appointments will be made for all committees in 2024.

Ms. Arrington motioned to accept the appointed committee members, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed. The Policies and Reconsideration of Materials Committee will set a date for their first meeting in October.

Ms. Reech-Harper asked the Board to consider moving the next regular meeting from November 21 to November 14 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Roach so moved, seconded by Ms. Arrington, and the motion unanimously passed.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at the Westside Regional Library.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan
President