

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
July 16, 2024**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:32 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. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Suelynne Mickey, Mr. James Morgan, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas. Ms. Dana Cox, Ms. Lana Havens, Mr. Ralph Roach, and Library Director Celise Reech-Harper were absent.

Also present were nine members of library staff and five members of the public.

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

**Agenda**

Mr. Morgan motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Minutes**

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

**Service Award**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Circulation/Reference Clerk Shirley Hawkins was honored for thirty-five years of service to the Library.

**Financial Report**

Ms. Dubrock presented the May and June financial reports. Matured CDs have been reinvested at higher interest rates, a sizeable donation from the Scottish Society of Central Louisiana will benefit the community closet at Johnson Branch, and the most recent AT&T bills were delayed due to region-wide storm effects; they will be reflected in the next financial report. Ms. Mickey motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Director's Report**

In Ms. Reech-Harper's absence, Ms. Dubrock read the Director's report, which detailed recent facilities updates, the progress of the juvenile library card rollout, the new payroll system, and the monitoring of the Sabine State Bank acquisition by Texas Dow Employees Credit Union, which may necessitate moving public funds to an alternate banking institution.

**Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton reported on back-to-school programs, fall hiring, and an increase in graphic novel circulation.

**Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby highlighted recent and upcoming programs, including Summer Reading Program entertainment and school supply giveaways.

**IT Report**

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux and members of the ILS team attended the State Library's TechFest. She also reported on an upcoming Sierra system update and the possibility of purchasing a backup internet connection to decrease the impact of outages on library programs.

**Public Relations Report**

Public Relations & Marketing Manager Sandie Buller reported on the cross-platform promotion of events and services and the success of Owlbert, the new library mascot.

**New Business**

The garden of the Huie-Dellmon House/ Rapides Parish Library Administration Headquarters is undergoing maintenance through the efforts of the Alexandria Garden Club. The garden was originally known as Myrtle Grove. Once the work on the garden is completed, the Library would like to have a ceremony to officially name the garden Myrtle Grove and honor its history with a plaque presented in partnership with the Garden Club. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the naming of the garden, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The Kent House has offered to partner with the library to offer free admission passes for circulation to the public. The passes would work similarly to the ones currently available for the Alexandria Zoo, Alexandria Museum of Art, and T.R.E.E. House Museum. Mr. Morgan motioned to approve adding Kent House passes for check-out, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at the Westside Regional Library.

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan  
President