

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was called to order by Vice-President, Bennett Bernard, immediately following the Building Committee meeting at 6 p.m. on August 15, 2005 in the Main Library meeting room. Board members present were Mr. Lee Verret, Kay Theunissen, Susan Hamilton, Mark Tullos and Mr. Pat Logan, LCG Liaison. Ms. Sona J. Dombourian, Library Director, Mr. Larry Gass, Administrative Assistant, Ms. Lisa Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary and Mrs. Teresa Elberson, Interim Library Operations Manager were also in attendance. Board members Barbara Martin and Jean Kreamer were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lee Verret moved that the minutes of the July 18, 2005 regular meeting be accepted as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kay Theunissen and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

The Director's report and financial reports are attached.

Ms. Dombourian reported that Mrs. Teresa Elberson has been offered and has accepted the position of Library Operations Manager.

Ms. Dombourian distributed a summary of revenues generated by the new (2003-2012) O&M millage. Although the millage was approved by voters in November 2002, the first tax year for collecting the funds was 2003 (the Library's 2003-04 fiscal year). The gross revenues generated by the millage came from figures provided by Becky Lalumia, LCG's Chief Financial Officer. The figures for mandatory deductions and other expenses associated with the millage were projected by Ms. Dombourian. By the end of Fiscal Year 2005/06, approximately \$3,752,386 is projected to be in fund balance due to the new O&M millage.

A combination of the O&M millage (maximum 2 mills) and the debt service for the bond repayment totals 3 mills annually. Ms. Dombourian explained that the CFO first calculates how much is needed annually for the library's debt service and subtracts the difference to arrive at the millage rate for the O&M millage. For 2005/06, the O&M millage is proposed at 1.70 mills. This is up for Council consideration in August. Conrad Comeaux, Parish Tax Assessor, has contacted both Ms. Dombourian and Ms. Lalumia regarding the O&M millage. At 1.70 mills, it is not currently at its maximum (2.0 mills). Mr. Comeaux indicated there was a strong move last year in the Legislature to severely restrict the ability to roll forward a millage after reassessment - especially if a millage is not at its maximum before the reassessment. Although the legislation did not pass during the 2005 session, Mr. Comeaux feels that there is a strong possibility it could be successful in future years. He is recommending we consider rolling the O&M millage to 2 mills, levy only 1 mill for debt service, and then transfer from the O&M excess monies to the sinking fund to make up the shortfall in the sinking fund. This results in the same tax rate for taxpayers, but protects the full 2 mills should such legislation pass in the future. Ms. Lalumia has sent a memo to Dee Stanley, LCG CAO, about the situation. After discussion, Pat Logan moved that the Library Board support the roll forward to two mills, with debt service set at 1 mill, and excess O&M funds be transferred to the sinking fund to make up the required difference. Lee Verret seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Ms. Dombourian also updated the Library Board on the proposed 05-06 budget. The group insurance benefit provided for LCG employees is predicted to have a five million dollar deficit by the end of this year. A one-time reimbursement to the fund from the LCG departments is to be made. The Library portion is about \$153,000. The proposed budget includes a proposal to increase

insurance premiums by 27% to avoid such significant deficits in the future; however, the employees will bear the entire cost of the increase in the premiums. A 2% cost of living raise for LCG employees is also included in the proposed budget.

OLD BUSINESS

MAIN LIBRARY FAÇADE UPDATE

Mr. Gass reported that the weatherproofing portion of the project of the Main Library has been completed. The general contractor has approximately 90 days remaining to complete the sidewalk repairs.

LIBRARY REORGANIZATION AND COMPENSATION UPDATE

There was nothing new to report.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR CONTRACT UPDATE

Ms. Dombourian will meet with Human Resources to discuss options regarding sick leave at the time of her retirement. She will provide the information to Kay Theunissen in advance of next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NSF CHECKS POLICY

The City/Parish Council recently passed an ordinance which sets the fee for NSF checks to \$25 or 5% of the total amount of the check (whichever is greater) for all city/parish government agencies.

Mr. Lee Verret moved that in accordance with Ordinance 0-198-2005 of the Lafayette City/Parish Council, if any payment is made to the Lafayette Public Library for any fine, permit, license or other fee or service with a check which is returned as unpaid by reason of insufficient funds, the drawer of the check shall be charged a service charge of \$25.00 or 5% of the face amount of the check, whichever is greater. The motion was seconded by Kay Theunissen, and all were in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming board vacancies were announced. Bennett Bernard's term is to expire on August 31, 2005. The City-Parish Council will make the appointment at their August 23rd meeting. Mr. Bernard is eligible for re-appointment to the board. Barbara Martin's term is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2005, and she is not eligible for re-appointment. Mark Tullos' term is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2005 and he is eligible for re-appointment.

The Library budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 29. Final adoption of the budget is scheduled for Thursday, September 29.

The Foundation fundraiser, Fondue Frolic, will be held on Thursday, September 29 at River Oaks.

The groundbreaking of the North Regional Library will be held on Friday, October 7 at 4:30 p.m. A social held in the Carencro Community Center will follow.

The Friends Booksale is scheduled for September 7 for Friends members only, and on September 8 -10 for the public.

The Friends Author Dinner will be held at the Petroleum Club on October 18 at 6:30 p.m. Sister Helen Prejean will be the guest author.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary