

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was called to order by President, Bennett Bernard at 5 p.m. on November 21, 2005 in the Meeting Room of the Main Library. Board members present were Jean Kreamer, Kay Theunissen, Susan Hamilton, Mark Tullos, and Mr. Pat Logan, LCG Liaison. Ms. Sona J. Dombourian, Library Director, Assistant Director Teresa Elberson and Ms. Lisa Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary were also in attendance. Administrative Assistance Larry Gass was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jean Kreamer moved that the minutes of the October 17, 2005 regular meeting be accepted as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kay Theunissen and the motion carried.

Mr. Bernard announced that Mark Tullos was re-appointed to the Library Board of Control by the Lafayette City-Parish Council for a five-year term.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

The Director's report and financial reports are attached.

Ms. Dombourian announced that Gretchen Fairbanks has been appointed associate state librarian. Ms. Fairbanks has been with the State Library for many years and congratulations are extended to her.

The American Libraries Journal includes articles on and the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the library systems in Jefferson Parish. The journal was shared for review.

Ms. Dombourian also shared a copy of a complimentary e-mail that was received in regard to the courtesy extended to a hurricane evacuee by the staff of the Southside branch library.

The Library Foundation has tried many times to re-schedule their fundraiser, Fondue Frolic, and have found competition in scheduling from other entities in major fundraising events. Therefore, the Foundation has decided to combine the fundraising event with their annual awards banquet on Sunday, May 7, 2006 at River Oaks.

The Friends of the Library will host their booksale on January 18-21, 2006 in the Main Library meeting room.

Ms. Dombourian reported that the fiscal year concluded on October 31. She provided a preliminary year-end report for last fiscal year. The second preliminary report is expected to be received in December. The final report will be received when the audit is completed, usually in late spring.

Ms. Dombourian distributed and reviewed the fourth-quarter and year-end statistical report. The report included statistical information from the main library and all branches including checkout sessions, first-time checkouts, new patron registration, user count, patron questions, and computer usage. A multi-year comparison of the circulation statistics was also provided.

OLD BUSINESS

MAIN LIBRARY FAÇADE UPDATE

Ms. Dombourian distributed a report from Larry Gass regarding the status of the main library façade project. Architect Jim Ziler has performed a preliminary walk-through inspection of the project with the contract and has developed a punch list which included four separate areas where repair to the joint sealant is necessary. A final inspection is scheduled for Nov. 22.

ADJUDICATED PROPERTY

In 2002, all of the taxing authorities in Lafayette Parish executed a Local Services Agreement by which the parties entered a program for the sale of abandoned properties which were adjudicated for the failure to timely and properly pay property taxes. Representatives of the

Lafayette City-Parish Government have developed a plan to reform that program and establish an auction system in its place. This plan has been included in an ordinance originally scheduled for final adoption in November. The final adoption has been postponed, and a council briefing will be held on December 13. Upon adoption of the ordinance by the City-Parish Council, the Library Board will then be asked if a willingness to participate exists. No action was required by the board at this time.

PARKING LOT UPDATE

A group of property owners in the Downtown Lafayette area have approached the director of Traffic and Transportation with a request to lease the Postal Square parking lot for the purpose of valet parking. Ms. Dombourian was also approached following a council meeting with a similar request. She informed the board members that no action was being requested at this time, but that the issue may resurface at a later time.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION

The advertisement for interested architects was published in three consecutive Wednesday editions of the Daily Advertiser. The information was also directly mailed to all local architects. An informational meeting with interested architects will be held on Tuesday, November 29 at 10 a.m. with Ms. Dombourian, Mr. Larry Broussard and Ms. Denelle Wrightson, consulting architect for the building projects.

NORTH REGIONAL UPDATE

The review of the second set of construction documents by Ms. Dombourian, Public Works and Ms. Wrightson has been completed. Ms. Dombourian met with the architect to discuss and resolve pending issues based on the comments received after the review of the construction documents. The drainage plan has received approval from the City of Carencro. A final meeting will be held by Ms. Dombourian and Ms. Wrightson with Mr. Angelle. The final bid sets are expected to be received by the first week in December for bidding in mid-December and probable bid-opening by mid to late January.

SOUTH REGIONAL UPDATE

The Army Corps of Engineers permit has been received. Mr. Sellers, project architect, has requested a 60-day extension on the construction document phase due to the devastation in Vermilion Parish by Hurricane Rita, and the architects' professional involvement in the surrounding communities. At a status meeting in November, Mr. Sellers indicated that he is more comfortable with the construction budget following the transfer of funds from the opening day book collection to the base project budget that was recently approved. .

NEW BUSINESS

PLA CONFERENCE, BOSTON, MA – MARCH 21-25, 2006

The 2005-06 operating budget included funds for one board member and two staff members to attend the PLA Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

LLA CONFERENCE, LAFAYETTE, LA – MARCH 28-30, 2006

The LLA Conference is being held in Lafayette this year. All board members are encouraged to attend the workshops for trustees and the luncheon scheduled for Thursday, March 30.

ALA CONFERENCE, NEW ORLEANS, LA – JUNE 22-28, 2006

The ALA Conference is still scheduled to be held in New Orleans, LA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kreamer moved that the optional December board meeting would not be held. The motion was seconded by Mark Tullos and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary