

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was called to order by President Adele Blue at 5:03 p.m. on March 17, 2014 in the Buchanan Street administrative office meeting room. Board members present were Bennett Bernard, Suzanne Dardeau, Vanessa Hill, Joan Wingate and Yung-Hsing Wu. Andrew Duhon and Kay Theunissen were not in attendance. Staff members present were Library Director Sona J. Dombourian, Library Administrator Teresa Elberson, Community Services Coordinator Beth Chiasson, Community Services Specialist Keith Guidry, and Director's Secretary Veronica Ryder.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Suzanne Dardeau moved to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2014 Library Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Vanessa Hill and all were in favor.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dombourian highlighted promotions and usage statistics from the printed report.

### **GEEK THE LIBRARY AND OTHER INITIATIVES**

Beth Chiasson introduced Keith Guidry to the Board. Mrs. Chiasson discussed the next phase of the Geek the Library program, which includes community involvement. The goal is to have local celebrities take a photo for the geek posters to promote the library system, and she asked the Board for suggestions.

### **PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Beth Chiasson attended the PLA conference and met with others promoting libraries. The main goal is to change the public perception of services the library has to offer.

Joan Wingate also attended the conference. Mrs. Wingate learned about creating a different elevator speech to promote the library, using terminology such as President or CEO instead of Director and children's classes instead of storytime.

## **CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES UPDATE**

### **SOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Ms. Dombourian updated the Board on construction related issues as follows:

- Outside storage room area issues (cracks in masonry and drywall) repairs completed by Contractor.
- Leak in Auditorium and related repairs completed by Contractor.
- Reconfiguration due to improper VAV box heater control-wire sequencing completed by Contractor.
- Roof blisters and related issues completed by Contractor.
- Water intrusion due to issues with the rooftop air-handling units (Addison fresh air units) have not been resolved. The HVAC engineer, architect, equipment installer, factory representative, and library staff have met to discuss and review the issue. We are awaiting a report from the architect about this. This has been reported to the LCG attorney handling the matter.

Ms. Dombourian reported the wiring in some of the lit bollards at North and at South Regional has been destroyed by ants. The wiring was near the ground on these units. The manufacturer is working with the Library system to replace all the bollards with newer fixtures that use LED lighting. The wiring on the newer fixtures is near the top. In addition, the staff will be more aggressive with ant extermination efforts.

## **MAIN LIBRARY**

Dombourian reported that the interior construction is progressing. Window installation is nearly complete. Power should be turned on for the second and third floors later in the week. Exterior delays, including the canopy plastering and the parking lot improvements, occurred due to weather.

## **EAST REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Construction is progressing on schedule.

## **WEST REGIONAL LIBRARY**

The firm of Ronhartz-Oestricher has been selected as the surveyor for the property. LCG is working on contract paperwork.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **DISCUSSION – BRANCH LIBRARIES**

Ms. Dombourian distributed an informational packet for the Board's use during the discussion about the future of the existing libraries in the area covered by the new East Regional Library, including the map of current and planned facilities, updated with the planned location of West Regional. She said that handout titled "Considerations for Small Branch Library Service" was to provide some objective criteria that could be used to evaluate a library facility. The other handouts provide factual information on the existing Broussard, Youngsville, and Milton Branch Libraries. She stated that she included information on the Milton Branch only because of discussion at the previous Board meeting. Ms. Dombourian added that if the criteria worked for this particular circumstance, they could also be used by future boards when the time came to decide about the libraries in the area covered by the West Regional Library. She also stated that, with some modification, it could be used by the Board to evaluate needs and requests for additional library services, but that this was not the purpose at the current meeting. The imminent issue, per Ms. Dombourian, is for the Board to decide what will happen to the Broussard and Youngsville Branches when the East Regional Library opens.

Dr. Hill asked if Ms. Dombourian was intending for these considerations to be used in response to requests for new library service, specifically Holy Rosary and communities in that area who already feel like they're a bit neglected in terms of development, and how that could be fairly reconciled with closing or keeping smaller libraries in other parts of the parish. She asked if the Board was to use the same matrix to evaluate in those cases, and, if so, how would that happen since they've never had a branch, and would not have any circulation numbers or other statistics. She questioned if the Board was continuing a system that has not served everyone as well as it should and would the Library use the same criteria consistently in determining whether or not we should keep these open and if any prior requests for service would be revisited using these criteria.

Dr. Dardeau appreciated the objective criteria for consideration and stated that this would be useful for the Board in responding to any feedback about a decision concerning the libraries covered by the East Regional Library.

Mr. Bernard concurred that some of the measures presented were based on existing models and might not be valid when considering new facilities or service. He stated he felt the Board should focus at this time on what will happen to Broussard, Youngsville and Milton rather than focusing on potentially opening something down the road because there would be different criteria and things to consider. Dr. Dardeau concurred, suggesting that the issue of potential new libraries be revisited separately at a later meeting.

Following the lengthy discussion, Mrs. Blue asked that the Board review the handouts in preparation for the April Board Meeting, when the Board will consider the status of the two branch libraries in the area of the East Regional Library.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LIBRARY FOUNDATION LIAISON**

Ms. Blue reported to the Board that Vanessa Hill has joined the Lafayette Public Foundation Board of Directors as a regular member. Ms. Hill moved to nominate Joan Wingate as the Library Foundation Liaison. The motion was seconded by Yung-Hsing Wu and all were in favor. Ms. Dombourian thanked Dr. Hill, Mrs. Wingate and Mrs. Blue for their service to the Foundation and the Board.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

LLA CONFERENCE – MARCH 26-28, 2014, LAFAYETTE CAJUNDOME

ALA CONFERENCE – JUNE 26-JULY 1, 2014, LAS VEGAS, NV

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Suzanne Dardeau moved to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Bennett Bernard and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary