

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was called to order by President Adele Blue at 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2014 in the Buchanan Street administrative office meeting room. Board members present were Bennett Bernard, Suzanne Dardeau, Andrew Duhon, Vanessa Hill, Kay Theunissen, and Joan Wingate. Yung-Hsing Wu was not in attendance. Staff members present were Library Director Sona J. Dombourian and Library Administrator Teresa Elberson. Also present was Amy Goode.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kay Theunissen moved to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2014 Library Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Joan Wingate and all were in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sona Dombourian announced that Veronica Ryder, Director's Executive Secretary, had recently left the Library to become the Administrative Assistant for LCG's CAO Dee Stanley. She also announced that Peggy Thibodeaux, Manager of the North Regional Library, will be retiring in June. Linda Broussard has been hired as the Manager of the Main Library and will begin in May.

Sona Dombourian highlighted library statistics and activities during the prior month. The Foundation's Award Luncheon was successful and honored Hoyt Harris, as well as Dr. Mary Neiheisel and Event Rental. Adele Blue noted that the luncheon broke even with ticket sales and that the raffle and silent auction brought in over \$3,000.

Ms. Dombourian noted that the Friends of the Library had another successful booksale, grossing over \$13,000. The Friends' Author Dinner is set for October 30th at the Petroleum Club and will feature author and syndicated newspaper columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson. The Friends recently funded the 3-D printer, 3-D digitizer, and educational technology kits that will be featured in the Library's Makerspace.

Ms. Dombourian reminded the Board of the downtown library and offices altered schedule during Festival International. For Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Festival Week, closing will be at 5:00 p.m. In addition, the downtown location of the library will be closed on Festival Saturday and Sunday. The parking lot that is used by the library is home to one of the Festival crafts venues and will be unavailable for library parking from Thursday evening through Sunday evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Joan Wingate reported on her attendance at the recent Public Library Association conference, held in Indianapolis. She attended a variety of sessions and events and networked with others from around the country. She remarked that it was surprising to her to learn that many areas charge a fee for library cards – depending on how a library was funded and where the users live. She handed out a report on all her sessions as well as a copy of the conference newspaper.

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Adele Blue and Joan Wingate commented on the Friday panel discussion they participated in that was led by Jean Kreamer. Mrs. Blue remarked that it seemed most Trustees attended on Thursday and few Trustees attended on Friday.

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES UPDATE

MAIN LIBRARY

Ms. Dombourian reported that the construction continues on both the interior and the site exterior. Lime was added to assist with drying out the underlying soil in the parking lot to help them finish pouring. Construction will continue through July. Furniture should start arriving in August. Ms. Dombourian is hopeful a grand re-opening can be held in January 2015. The Board is invited to tour the site on May 6th at 11 a.m. City/Parish officials plan to be in attendance.

EAST REGIONAL LIBRARY

Ms. Dombourian reported that the structural steel is up and that work continues on the building. There have been some rain delays, but the construction is still scheduled to be complete at the end of September. The building could be ready for furniture in October, but likely will be a month or two later, depending on the Main Library move-in.

WEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

The site survey should take place within the next few weeks. The preliminary building program was received from Dewberry Architects, and staff is in the process of reviewing.

SOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY

Ms. Dombourian stated the contractor continues to work on resolving the remaining issues. She stated that maintenance is being done to the fresh-air units and that once complete, the manufacturer will insulate the units. All are hopeful that will resolve that problem. Ms. Dombourian also reported that after a recent heavy rain, the auditorium leak has resurfaced. The contractor, architect, and Legal have been notified. LCG did file a lawsuit out of an abundance of caution, but had not yet served it. Since issues have not yet been completed and the deadline to request service is soon, LCG will request service of the suit. LCG will advise the contractor that LCG is agreeable to providing an extension of time as the contractor continues to address the problems.

OLD BUSINESS

EXISTING BRANCH LIBRARIES

Adele Blue thanked Ms. Dombourian for all the material prepared last month and distributed at the March Board Meeting. Mrs. Blue said she hoped everyone had the chance to review and study the materials in detail and asked if there were any questions, concerns, or items the Board wished to discuss in more detail. Not hearing any discussion, Mrs. Blue stated she would entertain a motion on the issue. Kay Theunissen asked if Ms. Dombourian had a recommendation for the Board. Ms. Dombourian stated that based on the information presented and discussed last month, her recommendation would be for the Board to consider closing the Broussard and the Youngsville Branches once the East Regional Library is open. Mrs. Blue asked about timing and if this would coincide with a budget year. Ms. Dombourian responded that the move would likely not coincide with the budget year, that the budget would likely have funding for these libraries in 2014-15 to accommodate any delays with construction, complete the move-out once services are operational at East Regional, and in case the Board wished to further discuss other locations.

Andrew Duhon moved to accept the Director's recommendation to close the Broussard Branch Library and the Youngsville Branch Library when the East Regional Library opens. Kay Theunissen seconded the motion.

Voting in favor were: Bennett Bernard, Adele Blue, Suzanne Dardeau, Andrew Duhon, Vanessa Hill, Kay Theunissen, Joan Wingate.

Voting in opposition were: none

Absent: Yung-Hsing Wu

Following the vote, a discussion occurred on notifying patrons and elected officials in the Broussard and Youngsville areas about the moving of library services to that new facility. The Library Administration will provide the appropriate notifications and keep the Board posted.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Library Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board was reminded that the ALA Conference is in Las Vegas from June 26- July 1st. Several librarians are planning to attend. Mrs. Blue may attend, representing the Library Board. It was announced that the Public Library Association Conference would be in Denver in 2016.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Joan Wingate moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kay Theunissen and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary