

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control

November 20, 2023

Recordings of all meetings can be found on the Library Board of Control page of the Lafayette Public Library website.

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on November 20, 2023. James Thomas, board member, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Daniel Kelly, President of the Board, was recovering from the flu, so he asked James Thomas to read the agenda items for the meeting.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Daniel Kelly, Board President; Stephanie Armbruster, Board Vice President; Ella Arsement; Robert Judge; James Thomas

Board Members Absent: Allan Moore; Erasto Padron

Other Staff Present: Sarah Monroe, Interim Library Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Nancy Hebert, Administrative Assistant

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

James Thomas led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Ella Arsement.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Thomas

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion carries.

IV. Comments from the Library Board

There were no comments from the Board.

V. Director Search Committee Update

Stephanie Armbruster reported that the committee is ready to move forward with the director search after a little restructuring. Armbruster will now be chairing the committee, while Dr. David Pitre serves in an advisory capacity. Two librarians from the community, Terry Trahan and Dawn Williams, will also serve on the committee. Armbruster requested and received information from previous director searches from the interim director, and the committee will schedule a date for the first committee meeting sometime soon.

VI. Interim Director’s Report & Comments

The library received a surprising but very welcome check in the mail for \$37,200 from the L.K. and Shirl Adamson Foundation. Administration is working on having this money moved into the 23/24 budget to assist with programming and services. Going forward, the library will receive an annual distribution of varying amounts; the donation is unrestricted.

The Acadiana Advocate published an article highlighting the library’s museum pass program. This program has been in place since 2018, and started with just the Hilliard Museum. Since then, the following museums have been added: Alexandre Mouton House, Children’s Museum of Acadiana, UL Lafayette Science Museum, Vermilionville Living History Museum, and most recently, Acadiana Center for the Arts. To date, 6,896 passes have been checked out by patrons.

Staff changes and vacancies were reported to the board.

VII. Facilities Update & Financial Report

The Construction Documents for the South Regional Library upgrades were delivered by the architect The Sellers Group to Library Administration on November 8, 2023. The Library is in the review process of the Construction Documents plans and specifications. After reviewed by Library Administration & Public Works, the updated pricing estimate and scope of work will be presented to the board of control by the Architect Gene Sellers for approval and to move into the Bidding Phase, estimated to happen in January 2024. The pricing estimate increased by \$144,400. The budget for this project is getting tight. When considering the estimated cost of the renovations with all three alternates and the remaining professional service estimates and then adding in the estimated roof replacement, the budget is at breakeven.

After the last meeting, the North Regional Library grounds were walked and staff identified possible drainage upgrades that needed to occur (regrading of existing swales/ditches and regrading of the land at rear of the property) to prevent future water intrusion into the building. The North Regional Library upgrades architect team is scheduled to meet City of Carencro drainage contractor Fenstermaker to discuss the drainage portion of our project and ensure it is correctly coordinated.

The survey crew for the Northeast Library property is scheduled to mobilize on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. The survey crew will focus on the boundary related tasks first to establish the 6-acre subdivision of the property. They are trying to get initial plat submitted to the Planning Commission by the application submittal deadline of December 7, 2023 for the meeting of January 22, 2024. Final plat approval is typically granted 2-3 weeks after.

Main, North Regional, South Regional, East Regional, West Regional all received landscaping maintenance. As part of the landscape maintenance agreement, the contractor RCI has performed the biannual services of mulching beds, shrubs and trees, and replacing seasonal flowers.

New teen computers, computer tables, and chairs were purchased and installed in the teen area of the North Regional Library. Due to the large teen and children patron users of this location, staff noticed a need to better separate users and have additional pcs available. The Library was able to increase the number of Teen PC's from four to eight.

In FY 22/23, the library collected \$12.9 million and spent \$11.1 million. Please note that the final numbers for the previous fiscal year are not finalized and certain transactions have not been accrued, finalized, posted, or audited. There are very little revenues or expenses to report at this time for the 23/24 Fiscal Year.

VIII. New Business

A. Library Book Discards September – October 2023

A motion to discard 3,519 books was made by Robert Judge. Motion was seconded by James Thomas.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion carries.

B. Bylaws Amendment

After board discussion, a motion to amend the Bylaws as presented was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Robert Judge.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion carries.

C. Open Meetings via Electronic Means Policy

Ella Arsement made a motion to adopt the Open Meetings via Electronic Means Policy as presented. Daniel Kelly seconded.

Pablo Mejia commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Thomas

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion carries.

D. American Library Association

Robert Judge asked to be recognized and passed out a packet of materials to the board members. Judge spoke on issues and concerns he has with the American Library Association including the association having a Marxist influence on libraries.

Judge yielded the floor to Stephanie Armbruster twice during his presentation who played the following sound clips:

<https://twitter.com/BraveBooksUS/status/1673326562035265537>

<https://www.youtube.com/clip/UgkxkMJFBkH5IFLMAaQaDR1iups-9FDZ5tNj>

Judge offered the following resolution and made a motion that it be passed.

Whereas the American Library Association has elected, by the majority of its members, to the office of president a person, who by her own self description is a Marxist,

Whereas Marxism is a ideology that is based on the reduction of the human person to an economic functionary and a system of governance characterized by atheistic, collectivist economic policy, that seeks total government control of all aspects of the economy,

Whereas Marxism is antithetical to the American form of governance based on the will of the people and individual freedom and private ownership of property “with certain unalienable rights endowed by their creator,”

The American Library Association is antagonistic toward family life and the rights of parents to rear and educate their own children in the manner according to their beliefs and morals,

This being the case, the Lafayette Parish Library System renounces and repudiates the ALA therefore cannot be associated with the American Library Association in any way,

Be it therefore resolved that the Lafayette Parish Library System will no longer have any association with the American Library Association and will include the inclusive, but not exclusive following prohibitions:

No employee of the Lafayette Parish Library System will be required to have any membership in the American Library Association, rather it is to be discouraged,

No monies will be appropriated, allocated, reimbursed, or otherwise and in any way be expended to or with the American Library Association,

No employee will be reimbursed or receive any remuneration for attendance at or continuing education, conference sponsored or conducted with or by the American Library Association.

This resolution is binding on any and all employees and members of the Lafayette Parish Library Board of Control.

Stephanie Armbruster seconded the motion.

At 7:08, Paige Beyt, counsel for LPL, asked for a 5-minute recess with Daniel Kelly. Sarah Monroe and Stephanie Armbruster also joined Beyt and Kelly during this recess. The recess ended at 7:26, and Kelly called the meeting back to order.

Beyt expressed concerns over the legality of the resolution. She advised the board take the issue up at the next meeting as she could not give a legal opinion since she was not aware this would be considered at this meeting.

Sarah Monroe spoke of her experience with ALA including benefiting from the professional development opportunities. She also stated that the library has lost a lot of staff over the past few years, and that if the board makes the decision to disaffiliate from the ALA, the library will not only continue to lose librarians but will not be able to attract librarians to the system.

After further board discussion, Stephanie Armbruster offered an amendment to the original motion to remove the phrase “rather it is to be discouraged” from the resolution. Robert Judge seconded the amendment.

Lynette Mejia and Mary Lib Guercio commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion to amend the resolution carries.

Daniel Kelly made a motion to adopt the resolution as amended, and Robert Judge seconded the motion.

Lynette Mejia, Pablo Mejia, Cara Chance, Mary Lib Guercio, Janelle Zetty, Anne Swanson, Amanda Anderson, Anna Gauthier, and Peyton Rose Michelle commented.

A motion to postpone the matter indefinitely was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by James Thomas.

Cara Chance and Peyton Rose Michelle commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Kelly, Thomas
Nays: None
Abstained: Judge
Absent: Moore, Padron

The motion to table the matter indefinitely carries.

IX. Announcements

- A. Reminder that there will be a Library Board Meeting in December 2023. Date to be determined.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2023.

X. Public Comments on any Library business which is not an agenda item.

Lynette Mejia, Cara Chance, Amanda Anderson, and Pablo Mejia commented.

XI. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary