

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

September 18, 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 September 18, 2023. James Thomas, Acting President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

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

Board Members Absent: David Pitre

Other Staff Present: Sarah Monroe, Interim Library Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager

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 August 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Robert Judge.

Yeas: Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Kelly, Padron

Nays: None

Abstained: Armbruster

Absent: Pitre

Hubert Broussard commented.

The motion carries.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2023 Special Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Robert Judge.

Yeas: Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Kelly, Padron

Nays: None

Abstained: Armbruster

Absent: Pitre

The motion carries.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 Special Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

Yeas: Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Kelly, Padron, Armbruster

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Pitre

Hubert Broussard commented.

The motion carries.

IV. Interim Director's Report & Comments

Staff changes and vacancies were reported to the board.

The 100 Days of Reading Summer Challenge wrapped up on September 8th. Overall, we've had 2,504 patrons register for the reading challenge with a total of 92,390 days of reading logged. 1,357 readers completed the challenge by reading 30 Days. 919 readers went the extra mile and read for 50 Days. 561 readers went above and beyond and read for 75 Days. And a whopping 262 patrons read for all 100 Days! We will be drawing for the grand prize winners very soon.

Friends of the Lafayette Public Library gratefully report the conclusion of another successful sale. And thank the community for their sustaining continuing support of this book sale event!

In line with President Kylin Jordan's "Getting Back to Basics" theme for the year's work beginning with revised Bylaws approval setting the tone for new organization within the support group founded in 1994, Lafayette Public Library Foundation is exploring a strategic plan to maximize the continued work of the Foundation. Committee work is gearing up in Major Events.

V. Facilities Update & Financial Report

Final retainage payment after a 45-day lien free period has been processed for the Main Library Roof Replacement. The project is officially complete.

The library is waiting on the Construction Document phase for the South Regional Library Upgrades to be submitted by Architect. The Architect and Library staff met to discuss carpet replacement and to limit number of different carpets being used.

There is a meeting next week to meet with interior designer to discuss color scheme/carpet coordination.

The library is waiting on the Design Development phase for the North Regional Library Upgrades to be submitted to the Architect. The Architect is waiting on coordination of Mechanical Engineer and Electrical Engineer to recommend phasing of project. There is a meeting to discuss Design Development phase tentatively scheduled for September 26th.

Library Administration requested the official appraisal be updated to reflect the 6 acres to be purchased. Public Works, Ziler Architects, & 720 Design was notified of the land to be acquired, as well as a likely reduction in scope of work to construct a 12,500 square foot library only. Library Operations Manager confirmed an active as-needed contract was still in place for a Surveyor. Library Administration will meet with Public Works next week and discuss the property and potential outline of the 6 acres. Public Works and Library Administration will meet with the Surveyor to order a survey and discuss the property next week or the following. Legal is working on the purchase agreement/ordinance for the land acquisition.

Window leaks occurred in two areas of the Main Library building in the recent rains. Emergency repairs were initiated. Estimated cost \$6,700. The elevator penthouse A/C unit drain backed up and dripped into the 3rd Floor Administration area. Drain line was flushed and water cleaned by Maintenance Staff.

The variable Frequency Drive failed on Air Handler Unit #2 at the North Regional Library. Unit is running 24 hours a day on bypass to keep building cooled, until new frequency drive can be installed. Emergency repairs initiated. Estimated \$4,800. The very heavy outdoor courtyard gate fell off hinge. No one was injured. It was fixed by Maintenance Staff.

In FY 22/23, the library has collected \$12.7 million and has spent \$9.7 million.

VI. New Business

A. Appeal of Patron Ban Decision

The Board was asked to take action related to appeal of patron ban decision.

A minor patron was banned from the Lafayette Public Library for 6 months for punching another minor patron in the groin. The interim Library Director provided an account of the incident as well as an explanation for the length of the ban. The patron and patron's father addressed the board and expressed regrets for the incident and requested that the ban be reduced.

After board discussion, a motion was made by Ella Arsement to accept the interim Library Director's decision for a 6-month ban from the library for the patron. Erasto Padron seconded.

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

The motion carries.

It was asked that Library Administration ensure the patron's library card still be able to access the library's electronic resources, databases, and eBooks.

B. Library Book Discards June – August 2023

A motion was made by Ella Arsement to discard 1,631 library books. Motion was seconded by Erasto Padron.

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

The motion carries.

C. Discussion of timeline and preliminary strategy for hiring process of new Library Director.

James Thomas announced that an ad hoc search committee has been formed and will be chaired by Dr. David Pitre. Stephanie Armbruster will also serve on the committee as well as Dawn Williams, UL Lafayette College of Education faculty member, and Terry Trahan, former school librarian. Dr. Pitre is currently putting together a timeline for the search.

D. Election of Officers

A motion to elect James Thomas as Library Board President for the remainder of the 2022-2023 term was made by Ella Arsement.

A motion to elect Daniel Kelly as Library Board President for the remainder of the 2022-2023 term was made by Stephanie Armbruster.

Lynette Mejia, Anne Swanson, Pablo Mejia, Melany Champagne, and Claire Delcambre commented.

The vote for Board President was as follows:
James Thomas: Arsement, Thomas
Daniel Kelly: Armbruster, Kelly, Padron, Kelly
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

Daniel Kelly was elected as the Library Board President for the remainder of the 2022-2023 term.

VII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2023.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2023.

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

Mary Lib Geurcio commented.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary