

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

February 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the Board Room on the 3rd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on February 18, 2019. Nora Stelly, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

I. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Nora Stelly, President; Andrew Duhon, Vice – President; Adele Blue; Suzanne Dardeau; Yung-Hsing Wu; Hilda Edmond (arrived 5:45)

Board Members Absent: Joan Wingate; Jolan Jolivette

Administrative Staff Present: Teresa Elberson, Director; Terry Roy, Library Administrator; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Bruce Conque, Council Member, District 6; Stephanie Armbruster, Michelle Nunziante, Michael Lunsford

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 Board Meeting was made by Andrew Duhon and seconded by Adele Blue.

Yea: Stelly, Duhon, Blue, Dardeau, Wu

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Jolivette, Wingate, Edmond

The motion to approve the minutes was carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2019 Special Board Meeting was made by Andrew Duhon and seconded by Yung-Hsing Wu.

Yea: Stelly, Duhon, Blue, Dardeau, Wu

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Jolivette, Wingate, Edmond

The motion to approve the minutes was carried.

III. Comments from the Library Board

A. Lafayette Public Library Foundation Report

Nora Stelly announced that the Foundation is currently planning the awards banquet in April. All are invited to attend. The Foundation is in the early discussion stages of reorganizing its previous Political Action Committee.

IV. Director's Report and Comments

Teresa Elberson announced staff changes and vacancies that need to be filled.

Children, teen and adult programming staff have been attending summer reading program workshops presented by the State Library as LPL gets ready for "A Universe of Stories" with a space theme for the summer.

A reception was held on January 24 at the Main Library for the 100 Book Club. Recognized were those that read 100 books or more. Prizes were awarded and refreshments were served.

East Regional Library launched the circulation of fishing poles February 1. These poles are made available by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department and they can be checked out for three weeks. The pond is stocked at the park and fishing is encouraged there.

Finding Gobi author Dion Leonard visited the Main Library on January 29. He visited two local schools the next day. He was made an honorary Cajun and was presented a certificate from the Mayor/President's office.

Outreach Services worked the Chinese Lunar New Year festival downtown on February 2 to celebrate the year of the Pig. They also helped the public to use a 3-D printing pen public at Waitr Day, a block party celebration of Waitr's move to its new Jefferson Street location on February 15.

Monthly reports were included in packets, along with copies of the latest BookTalk.

About financials, Larry Angelle explained that the library had so far collected 12.7M and spent 7.5M, keeping pace with previous years.

V. Construction and Facilities Update

The last site visit at West Regional Library was January 31. Permanent power has been turned on. According to the contractor, the City of Scott and Entergy had a paperwork submittal problem which delayed power to the building for two weeks after the transformer was installed. The contractor's time has been extended until March 15th for substantial completion for the delay.

The bookmobile is in the build stall. The interior components are being installed. The wrap design has been finalized and proofs were approved by Right Angle and library director. LA I drivers have been hired and books are being ordered. A launch event will be planned. Delivery is set for late February or early March.

Security gates have been installed and materials are being checked in and out using the RFID technology. Self-check machines are turned on at Main and SRL.

VI. Old Business

A. Aaron Guidry, et al c. Teresa Elberson, et al Civil Action No. 6:18-cv-1232 United States District Court; Western District of Louisiana (Informational)

Teresa Elberson stated that on January 31, Judge Summerhays adopted the report and recommendations from Magistrate Hanna dismissing the case due to lack of standing. The plaintiffs have 60 days to file an appeal in the Fifth Circuit.

Nora Stelly added that the case was dismissed without prejudice.

Teresa Elberson stated that there was an organization that hosted an event involving Drag Queens reading in a meeting room at the South Regional Library on February 3. This is the same organization that sued the library for the use of the meeting room. The library was not involved in this program, in any way, other than allowing the use of the room.

Suzanne Dardeau asked when Teresa Elberson was informed of the organization wanting to book the meeting room. Mrs. Elberson stated that Judge Hanna made a ruling on January 3 stating that the library would stop asking patrons to fill out forms disavowing Drag Queen Story Time as a condition of using library space.

Suzanne Dardeau then asked how many people attended the event. Teresa Elberson stated she did not know, as she was not present. Dardeau asked if there were protests. Elberson stated that lawyers were worried that there would be and recommended that more security be provided. There was a group protesting, but

there were no conflicts. Mrs. Elberson stated to her knowledge, there are no further requests for meeting rooms by that group.

Nora Stelly reiterated that there was an issue with a more intrusive meeting room form. The library attorneys suggested that the room reservation form be altered in light of the agreement reached with the court in order to give the library protection against a contempt ruling. Additional information was required of groups trying to reserve rooms. The language of the form led to the involvement of the ACLU.

B. Fund Balance

Teresa Elberson announced that she gave a presentation to the Rotary Club on the status of the fund balance. Andrew Duhon stated that he, Teresa Elberson and Nora Stelly had met with the LCG Administration to get an understanding of their position on the reallocation of \$18M.

Nora Stelly announced that the fund balance issue may be on the agenda at the March 12 council meeting.

Suzanne Dardeau asked for the status of the evaluation of the Director. Nora Stelly said that an informal date has been set for the end of March for the evaluation to be written.

VII. New Business

A. LLA and ALA conference attendance for Trustees (Informational)

The Louisiana Library Association conference will be held March 14-15 in Baton Rouge. Andrew Duhon will be awarded the James O. Modisette award for the Trustee of the Year. The library has money to send all trustees to this conference.

The American Library Association conference is in Washington, D.C. and will be held June 20-25. The library has money to send one trustee to this conference.

B. Meeting Room Policy Changes

Teresa Elberson explained the changes in the meeting room policy. One change is that one must have a valid, full-use library card to book a meeting room. Another is that standard fire code regulations prohibit any open flames, burning candles, and flammable, combustible, and hazardous materials in the library.

Tammy Parker Pratt and Joy Rabalais asked that two things be added to the policy.

The library administration (Library Director and/or Board of Control) reserves the right to require the group reserving the room to pay the cost for additional security that may be required to ensure compliance with the library's guidelines and

policies, including the Patron Behavior Policy. If the library determines that additional security is required, the library will make appropriate arrangements with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office or the Lafayette Police Department, and an invoice for the anticipated cost of the additional security will be required to be pre-paid by the group reserving the room at least fourteen (14) days before the event, if time allows. The group reserving the room will likewise be financially responsible for any additional security costs that exceed the amount of the prepayment. Should prepayment not be timely made, the library may cancel the reservation and/or use of the room.

The library administration (Library Director and/or Board of Control) reserves the right to require the group reserving the room to provide the library with a certification of insurance and proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 with Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government/the Lafayette Public Library as an "additional insured," at least fourteen (14) days prior to the use of the meeting room, in default of which the library may cancel the reservation and/or use of the room.

A motion to approve the proposed Library Meeting Room Policy and Guidelines as presented on February 18, 2019 to be effective February 19, 2019 was made by Andrew Duhon and seconded by Adele Blue.

Yea: Stelly, Duhon, Blue, Dardeau, Wu

Nay: Edmond

Abstained: None

Absent: Jolivette, Wingate

The motion to approve was carried.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that Personal Financial Disclosure form due on or before May 15, 2019.
- B. Yearly Ethics training due before December 31, 2018.
- C. Next board meeting is March 18, 2019.
- D. Council discussion on fund balance rededication March 12 at 5:30.

IX. Comments from the Public on other matters not on the agenda

Mrs. Stephanie Armbruster stated that as a homeschooler, she recently came up with a current events project for her teenager. She was disappointed in the bias regarding the transgender subject. Out of 91 listings, 90 were affirming and only 1 was non-affirming. She stated that the one book that is non-affirming is a recent addition. This book was mentioned at the council meeting in September, and she knows for a fact that two citizens have since requested said book. She indicated that the bad news was that it took a public forum and two taxpayers suggesting the book for the library to get the one book. She stated that her daughter could not have a valid research paper with only one side of the argument. She feels that the library is not fulfilling its mission by

stocking only a one-sided view. She would like to know the criteria used when selecting books, what does the selection process look like, who is overseeing that the library is meeting the needs and expectations of their community, and also with the bookmobile, who is going to decide the books stocked.

Ms. Michelle Nunziante announced that she is a frequent patron of the East Regional Library and had suggested that the LGBT children's books be labeled and grouped together. She recently discovered that the books were still very much accessible to her children, as they were on the bottom shelf and very near where she and her children sit. She asked if there was a policy over and above labeling said books so that they would not be on the floor level where children could access said books.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Andrew Duhon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adele Blue seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Elberson, Secretary