

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

April 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the meeting room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on April 18, 2022. Robert Judge, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

**I. Roll Call and Invocation**

Board Members Present: Robert Judge, Board President; Landon Boudreaux, Vice-President (departed 6:05); Joan Wingate; Stephanie Armbruster; James Thomas; Shane Landers; David Pitre

Board Members Absent: Doug Palombo

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Sarah Monroe; Regional Library Manager; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Paige Beyt, Oats & Marino; Lynette Mejia; Melanie Brevis; Matthew Humphrey; Jarred Breaux; Kaliste J. Saloom, III; Madison Price; Andrew Duhon; Michael Smith; M. Christian Green; Mary Lib Guercio; Jennifer Luquette; Dominick Cross; John Mikell; Nureaka Ross; Alton Trahan; Marja Broussard; Cara Chance; Wayne Colvin; Lena Selph; Leslie Alexander; Chris Tuttle; Robert Voitier, Jr.; Gene Paquette; Bee Turland; Richard Mere; Patricia A. Trahan; Katherine Salts; Karen Gambel; Courtney T. Malagarie; Christian Lewis; Corey Grimey

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Robert Judge led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. New Business**

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

Lynette Mejia addressed comments made by Robert Judge at the end of the March 21, 2022 meeting. She stated that the article cited did not exist.

Melanie Brevis addressed comments made by Robert Judge at the end of the March 21, 2022 meeting. She stated that a checks and balances system was already in place before changes made to the Collection Development Policy.

Matthew Humphrey addressed comments made by Robert Judge at the end of the March 21, 2022 meeting. He said that members of the public body should not be allowed to make untrue statements. He stated that the Board makes it practice to open up an agenda item, open it up for public comment, and then editorialize further without allowing for further public comment before a vote.

Yeas: Judge, Boudreaux, Wingate, Armbruster, Thomas, Landers, Pitre

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Palombo

#### **IV. Comments from the Library Board**

Joan Wingate announced that the Friends of the Lafayette Public Library had recently reached their goal of giving 1M in support of the library system. A mini book sale will be held June 16-18 at the South Regional Library, featuring fiction and children's books.

The Foundation will be hosting an evening event on June 10. The theme will be Alice in Bayouland and it will be held at Palmetto Club in the Oil Center.

#### **V. Director's Report and Comments**

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

Director attended a meeting of the Bayouland Library System.

Director attended Parish Council meeting to recognize the Friends of the Library who have raised over \$1 million for the library and its programs over the last 40 years.

Interviews were held with KLFY and Acadiana Advocate.

Director met with local author Darlene Smith.

Director met with Councilman Kevin Naquin.

4,019 people attended 258 library programs in March. Library patrons checked out 150,277 items including 27,837 digital items. 57,184 people visited a Lafayette Public Library in March. 6,595 people used a public computer. Electronic resources were used

57,200 times, and 41,802 people visited the library's website. Library meeting rooms and study rooms were used 2,790 times in March.

## **VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report**

2022 revenues are currently 10.65M. Expenditures are at 5.3M.

Library Operations Manager met with the project team to walk the upper and lower roof at Main to finalize the replacement approach. Options related to escalation in prices and pausing of contract time was also discussed. Clarification was obtained by Larry from the Purchasing Department and Public works related to pricing escalation options and pausing contract time due to long lead times.

Library administration will plan on requesting the Library Board of Control to vote on moving forward with the next phase of this project at a future board meeting.

Library Administration will plan on requesting the Library Board of Control to vote on moving forward with the next phase of the South Regional Upgrades project at a future board meeting.

Library Operations Manager identified to Public Works and Angelle Architects that the architectural services contract in place for the North Regional Library Upgrades needs to be amended in scope and rate as previously discussed.

The library is waiting on the Lease Amendment for the library warehouse to be reviewed and signed by the Lessor of the building.

RFP was advertised for the Northeast Library and is available for public viewing.

Repairs were made to meeting room windows at the East Regional Library for no charge.

Leaks in the vending area at the East Regional Library were recently reported by the Branch Manager. Library Operations Manager notified the architect and roofer that the issue has resurfaced during recent windy rain events.

A small location of broken parking lot curbing at both SRL and WRL are being repaired.

Fire extinguishers at all library locations will be inspected and charged or replaced if needed.

A drain pipe in a wall at the West Regional Library was found to be disconnected causing some water damage to carpet and mechanical room insulation. It was repaired and the carpet is being replaced with existing stored stock.

1HP condenser motor on Condensing Unit 1A at the South Regional Library was replaced. The cost was \$525. Condenser coils were cleaned.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Bylaws**

The Board was asked to take action approving the correction of the Board of Control Bylaws as follows:

1. Article 6. Section 1. "A majority of the votes of all members of the Board shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution or order." To be changed to: "A majority of the votes of a quorum of the Board, as described in Article 3 Section 2, and not to be inconsistent with Article 3 Section 2, shall be necessary for the passage of any business before the Board."
2. Article 3 Section 2. "A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of four (4) members of the Board present in person." To be changed to: "A quorum for the transaction of any business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board present in person."
3. Article 3 Section 5:" ...No procedural rule shall supersede the requirements of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law or require less than the vote of a majority of the authorized membership of the Board for the passage of an act of the Board. To be changed to: "...No procedural rule shall supersede the requirements of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law or require less than the vote of a majority of the Board members present in which a quorum exists as per Article 3."

A motion to made by Robert Judge to accept the bylaw changes as proposed. This was seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

Jarred Breaux stated that he spoke about problematic bylaws in a previous meeting. He stated that more problematic was in Article 3 Section 5 which states: "...but the presiding officer of a Board meeting may, in his/her discretion, deviate from Robert's Rules of Order...". He suggested that Article 3 Section 5 be amended to read only "The procedures for the conduct of all meetings shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order."

Kaliste J. Saloom, III stated that according to Louisiana Open Meetings laws a simple majority of all members is needed to constitute a quorum, which means 5 people are needed for a quorum. Those 5 members have to be present for the entire meeting.

Lynette Mejia stated it highly irresponsible and unethical to release substantial changes to the bylaws to the public for consideration at 3:30 PM the day before a holiday when the item was coming up for a vote the following Monday. She stated members of the public, the press, or Board members couldn't have had time to review changes or their impact on recent votes. She suggested the Board ask for an AG opinion on the matter.

Madison Price suggested the Board do more research into the matter. He stated that changes as proposed would perpetuate the issues at hand. He suggested the Board seek expert advice.

Melanie Brevis asked for further explanation and more transparency on agenda items.

Andrew Duhon objected to making a majority anything other than a full majority of the Board.

Michael Smith asked that this vote be tabled.

M. Christian Green challenged the Board to scrap the 'physically present' part of the bylaws and asked for a vote of five of all Board members for any business.

Mary Lib Guercio applauded the Board for their attempt at correction. She stated that the default definition of a quorum is a simple majority of the total membership of a public body. She supported the tabling of the vote.

Jennifer Luquette signed up in opposition to bylaw changes but did not wish to speak.

Dominick Cross suggested displaying all changes for the public.

Matthew Humphrey asked for transparency from the Board. He questioned the revisit of the RFP vote. He urged the Board to confer with legal counsel on all matters.

A motion to made by Joan Wingate to table the item. This was seconded by David Pitre.

Yeas: Wingate, Pitre, Thomas  
Nays: Judge, Armbruster, Landers  
Abstained: None  
Absent: Palombo, Boudreaux

Because the bylaws were not changed, Robert Judge made a motion that items B. Reintroduction of RFP vote of February, D. Bayouland Card Fee, and E. Collection Development Policy be tabled. This was seconded by David Pitre.

Wayne Colvin did not wish to speak.

Lena Selph did not wish to speak.

Kaliste Saloom, III questioned the Board's addressing of the issue. He stated that his legal opinion was that the Board needed five to constitute a quorum. He suggested all items on the agenda be voted down and stated that the tabling of the vote should fail under the bylaws.

The Board called a recess.

Because bylaws were not changed, items B, D, and E were effectively tabled.

- B. Reintroduction of RFP vote of February
- C. Appeal of Reconsideration Committee Decision

A reconsideration of DVD *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood* was held on March 9, 2022. James Thomas gave a summary of the committee meeting to the board. A motion was not made at the meeting to reconsider the material.

The patron that filed the original complaint appealed the decision made at the committee meeting.

The Board was not allowed to show portions of the DVD during the meeting.

A motion was made by Shane Landers to treat DVD *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood* as other NC-17 DVDs. This was seconded by Robert Judge.

Cara Chance suggested that the movie could not be shown due to copyright and/or public performance laws. She stated that the patron that filed the appeal was not present. She stated the issue was not about children checking out the DVD.

Jarred Breaux signed in but did not wish to speak.

Leslie Alexander thanked the Board for their service. She asked the members of the public to show more respect. She supported a restriction for checking out this DVD.

Kaliste J. Saloom, III asked that the Board not condemn the movie, but restrict access. He applauded the Board and all Boards prior for not banning items.

Lynette Mejia stated that many items in the library contain sexual content. She stated the idea of censoring library materials incredibly shortsighted.

Courtney Malagarie encouraged members of the Board to resist the pressure faced by advocacy groups.

Madison Price stated that there is discrepancy in how learning ought to be conducted. He stated that democracy is only functional in an educated society. He said that society can only be educated if they are given the opportunity to educate themselves.

Melanie Brevis stated that the library does not act in the place of parents and that it isn't the responsibility of the library or librarians to monitor what a child is looking at or checking out of the library.

Andrew Duhon signed in to speak but left the meeting before being called for this item.

Chris Tuttle thanked the Board for their service. He spoke of previous porn addiction and asked that the Board restrict the DVD.

Mary Lib Guercio stated that *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood* was a documentary. She agreed that age-appropriate material should be so designated. She stated that the appellant was not in attendance.

Robert Voitier, Jr. asked how this particular DVD got into the collection. He questioned the fact that the Board could not show the movie but that the library could facilitate it being shown to minors.

Gene Paquette stated that libraries should be curated by professional librarians.

Bee Turland stated that she was against the removal of any items from LPL. She stated that parents should be responsible for what their children check out.

Richard Mere stated that the First Amendment is about the free marketplace of ideas. He stated that he is now encouraged to watch this DVD.

Nureaka Ross urged age-appropriateness and questioned whether a child had ever checked out the material.

Matthew Humphrey asked that parents be able to decide what their child checks out. He urged everyone to follow Lafayette Citizens Against Censorship.

Lena Selph stated that this DVD was a documentary. She urged the Board to leave the DVD on the shelf.

Yeas: Judge, Wingate, Armbruster, Thomas, Landers, Pitre

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Palombo, Boudreaux

D. Bayouland Card Fee

E. Collection Development Policy

### **VIII. Announcements**

A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Thursday, May 12, 2022.

B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2022.

Robert Judge reminded Board members that Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement was due on or before May 15.

### **IX. Comments from the public on any other matter not on this agenda**

Jarred Breaux gave agenda suggestions to avoid further confusion. He asked for detailed description on each agenda item. He asked for detailed descriptions on upcoming motions to be able to circle whether one wanted to sign up in support or opposition on the agenda item. He suggested placing restricted items behind a desk.

Patricia Trahan read a letter on behalf of a parent speaking for their child that has come out as gay. The letter spoke of the value of libraries and the importance of materials and programming for everyone.

Katherine Salts spoke on the impact that the library and its staff has had on her child. She thanked the library for safety policies during the pandemic and spoke of library programming. She stated that all children having access to age-appropriate LGBT+ content important.

Lynette Mejia quoted Desmond Tutu, stating “If you want peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.” She urged the Board to speak with members of the public. She asked for clarity and transparency on agendas.

Melanie Brevis stated that the library does not have an image problem. She urged the Board to increase library funding.

Karen Gambel signed up but did not wish to speak.

Madison Price encouraged the Board to reverse the change of the makeup of the Reconsideration Committee. He asked that the process for the development and construction of a Northeast Library be expedited. He asked for the reversal of the Bayouland Card Fee decision.

Matthew Humphrey asked for those in attendance to bookmark [acadianacasts.com](http://acadianacasts.com). He urged the Board to improve the library system.

Wayne Colvin signed in to speak but left the meeting before being called for this item.

Marja Broussard signed in to speak but left the meeting before being called for this item.

Courtney T. Malagarie signed in but did not wish to speak on this item.

Christian Lewis stated that the Supreme Court has given the right to regulate free speech based on community standards. He stated that the Board had the responsibility to determine by community standards what is obscene.

Corey Grimley stated that not all books in the children’s section are age-appropriate. He urged oversight of staff selections of age-appropriate materials in the children’s section. He questioned how each branch oversees and monitors material.

**X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danny Gillane, Secretary