

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

June 21, 2021

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 June 21, 2021. Doug Palombo, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.

I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Doug Palombo, Board President; Hilda Edmond, Board Vice-President; Joan Wingate; Adele Blue; James Thomas; Landon Boudreaux; Robert Judge

Board Members Absent: Stephanie Armbruster

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Interim Director; Terry Roy, Library Administrator; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Cara Chance

Doug Palombo led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by Adele Blue.

Yeas: Palombo, Edmond, Wingate, Blue, Thomas, Boudreaux, Judge

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Armbruster

III. Comments from the Library Board

Joan Wingate announced that the Lafayette Public Library Foundation was nearing the end of their educational campaign. Two slogans from this campaign are We're Bound Together! and That's My Library!

Joan mentioned that the Friends of the Lafayette Public Library had recently held their in-person Book Sale at the Heymann Center.

IV. Director's Report and Comments

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

Approximately \$3 million will be saved by changing the expansion projects for North Regional and South Regional into building upgrades.

The Library has cancelled two software subscriptions that were used by the acquisitions department to assist with selection and management of materials. Savings is \$34,800 per year.

Interim director had a telephone conference with City Councilman Glenn Lazard, a follow-up to the previous in-person meeting.

Masks are no longer required by staff, and are not required for anyone entering the building.

The Library continues to expand in-person library programs.

Summer Reading is in full swing.

The Library reopened at 25% capacity in May 2020.

Downloadable material usage was down 6% compared to May 2020 but up 12% compared to 2019. Electronic usage was up over 200% compared to May 2020.

Compared to May 2020 library visits were up over 200% but still down about 50% compared to May 2019.

First-time checkouts were up 26% compared to last year.

Program attendance, while up nearly 500% compared to May 2020 (pandemic), it has returned to pre-pandemic numbers. May 2021 attendance was up slightly compared to May 2019.

David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy CubeSAT team is developing a weather balloon loaded with scientific instruments to launch later this summer and has partnered with the Lafayette Public Library. They meet in the Main makerspace and use our internet connectivity, accessible laptops, and miscellaneous lab gear such as breadboards, testing gear, soldering tools, and oscilloscopes, which are value assets to their project.

Larry Angelle stated that financials show that as of June 14, the library has expended 7M and has collected 10.6M in revenue.

V. Facilities Update

A budget revision via Parish Ordinance PO-028-2021 will be introduced to the Parish Council on 06/15/21 and voted on 07/06/21. This ordinance will move \$420,000 from the RPL Automation System capital account to the Bldg/Grnds/Gen Plant-Main account to supplement existing funding in this account to replace the roof at the Main Library.

Larry Angelle drafted a contract amendment related to the Architectural Services Contract which was sent to the Architect and Public Works Department for consideration and edits on May 25, 2021. No updates on the Architectural Contract Amendment have been received at this time due to Public Works being in state of emergency from rain events.

Broken glass on a Main Library 2nd floor window was replaced on 5/27/2021. Cost was \$2,050.17.

Maintenance staff were called out to the South Regional Library on Sunday 6/6/21 due to staff reporting the A/C not adequately cooling the work areas with temperatures at 77 degrees. A burnt contactor was identified as the cause on Condenser Unit 2A. Maintenance staff temporarily removed it from the circuit and replaced two burn fuses to get the unit running at half power until a new contactor could be replaced.

A 1HP motor was also replaced on Condenser Unit 2A.

East Regional Library – HVAC Repair:

A bad motor was replaced on the East Regional Library Air Handler Unit #1. Cost was \$2,170.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

VII. New Business

A. Report and Recommendations of Director’s Search Committee and Vote

Hilda Edmond expressed concern about the handling of situations that may arise in the library that may be controversial or political in nature. She made mention of current library displays. Edmond stated that these things have been interfering with the Board’s progress with more serious matters. Edmond requested a meeting with Danny Gillane and Doug Palombo.

A motion was made by Joan Wingate to hire Danny Gillane for the position of Director, with a salary of \$57,898.3 hourly/\$120,483 per year and all benefits in line with the previous director position including vacation, sick leave, holiday, health insurance, retirement, and other benefits of former Director Teresa Elberson and said position, and was seconded by Robert Judge.

Cara Chance stated that no professional librarian would bow to censorship. She stated that it was in the librarian’s code of ethics not to allow one person or one group to dictate all of the information and to impose their view on the entire community.

Yeas: Palombo, Edmond, Wingate, Blue, Thomas, Boudreaux, Judge

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Armbruster

VIII. Announcements

A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, July 19, 2021.

B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2021.

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

There were no comments from the public.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary