

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control
Northeast Library Exploratory Committee

January 5, 2022

Lafayette Public Library Board of Control Northeast Library Exploratory Committee Meeting was held in the meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on January 5, 2022. Landon Boudreaux, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Landon Boudreaux, Chairman; Danny Gillane, Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Doug Palombo; James Thomas; Robert Judge; Alton Trahan; Azadeh Yazdi; Maisha Chargois; Nureaka Ross; Lynette Mejia

Other Staff Present: Terry Roy, Library Administrator; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Michael Toussaint; Mary Lib Guercio; Marja Broussard

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Landon Boudreaux led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Northeast Library Exploratory Committee was made by Alton Trahan and seconded by James Thomas.

Yeas: Boudreaux, Gillane, Angelle, Palombo, Thomas, Judge, Trahan,
Yazdi, Chargois, Ross, Mejia

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

IV. Northeast Library Financial Basics

The library has approximately \$8 million in its capital budget designated for building a northeast regional library.

The current LCG budget estimates that the library will spend \$1.3 million from its fund balance. The library estimates that without making changes it will spend approximately \$600,000 from the fund balance.

The library estimates that a northeast regional library would cost between \$800,000-\$900,000 to operate annually. This is for a brick-and-mortar building built and owned by the library. This is in addition to what the library currently spends on operations.

Funding and operational costs of Main and all regional branches were presented to the committee.

Possible changes to current library operations to make a new library more affordable were presented to the committee.

Closing the Main and regional libraries on Sundays and Chenier Center on Saturdays would save the library between \$250,000-\$300,000 in staffing costs.

Operating the Main and regional libraries eight hours per day and six days per week and operating the smaller branch libraries as after school locations open four days per week from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. would potentially save the library close to \$1.3 million annually in personnel costs.

This would potentially come close to covering the library's estimated actual annual deficit of \$600,000 and the estimated \$800,000-\$900,000 it would cost annually to operate a new library.

After the new facility opened, it is possible that the Chenier Center location would be closed. Savings would be small. Additionally, closing the Milton library completely would save the library close to \$300,000 per year.

It was mentioned that public transportation doesn't run on Sundays.

Committee members asked if other funding sources were possible.

V. Northeast Library Timeline Estimate

The committee was presented with an estimated timeline for Land / Existing Structure Purchase or Lease of Facility.

The Northeast Library Exploratory Committee will possibly be dissolved after presenting Request for Proposal recommendations to the Library Board of Control.

Ideas presented to make a new branch multifunctional included having a kitchen, coffee shop, or art studio. This would have to be part of the building program and could possibly raise construction costs.

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

Michael Toussaint thanked committee members for being optimistic about the possibility of opening a new branch. He asked if there was a possibility to of state or federal funding.

Mary Lib Guercio asked about the possibility of exploring any type of outside funding. She stated that meetings of the committee should be held in the northeast area of Lafayette. She asked if analytics were being studied to understand commitment needed and where. She suggested finding a centralized property that could be retrofitted to meet the needs of the community.

Marja Broussard stated that she was offended by the three (3) minute limit imposed by the Comments from the Public Policy.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary