

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

June 22, 2022

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 22, 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; Joan Wingate; Stephanie Armbruster; James Thomas; Shane Landers; David Pitre

Board Members Absent: Daniel Kelly

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Sarah Monroe; Assistant Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Nancy Hebert, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public: Paige Beyt, Oats & Marino; Pablo Mejia; Lynette Mejia; Mary Lib Guercio; Joseph Abraham; Andrew Duhon; Seth Roy; Mitzi Moss Duhon; Corey Grimley; Jim Bass; Cara Chance; Linde Dean; John Mikell; Leslie Alexander; Aaron Chance; Matthew Humphrey

The invocation was led by Shane Landers.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting was made by Landon Boudreaux and seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

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

IV. Comments from the Library Board

The Lafayette Public Library Foundation annual meeting event was held Friday, June 10, 2022 The Palmetto Room in Lafayette's Oil Center. It was an evening cocktail event titled "Alyce in Bayouland", with Alice in Wonderland as the inspiration. Award recipients were: Friends of the Library – Major Donor Award; Carol Trosclair – Foundation Award and Joan Wingate – President's Award.

The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library hosted a mini sale at Main June 16-18, from 10 am to 3 pm each day of the sale. There are not yet reports of earnings from this sale.

V. Director's Report and Comments

Staff changes were announced to the Board.

Director attended Scott and Broussard City Council meetings.

The library is working with Parks and Rec to provide some weekly programming at the summer camp at the MLK Center. Because of the summer camp at the MLK Center, the library has not implemented summer hours as in the past.

Director has been interviewed by local and national media about the recent decision concerning displays.

Summer Reading Kickoff was a success with nearly 1,000 participants.

Director met with Parish Councilman John Guilbeau.

Director spoke with the Mayor of Carencro and with the Mayor of Broussard.

Mayor-President Guillory issued a proclamation for the 2022 Summer Reading Program.

The library is asking the board to discard 7,319 books removed from the collection during the months of March – May. 113 were a year old and are discarded due to condition. 230 were 1-2 years old. 682 were 3-4 years old. 6,294 are 5 years old or older. The library is continually weeding its collection to make room for new materials and to keep the collection up to date. While we have made changes to our purchasing and replacement practices to become more efficient with our funds and to avoid the appearance of waste, these changes take time and will not bear visible results in the immediate future.

VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report

Plans and specifications for the Main Library Roof Replacement Project were reviewed by Larry and recommended edits and concerns were sent to Public Works and MBSB Architects. Insurance requirements for the project were obtained by Larry from LCG's Risk Management Department. The library is currently waiting on Public Works to review the plans and specifications for final edits prior to being sent to the Purchasing Department for final review and bid.

Larry Angelle drafted an amendment to the architectural services scope and rates for the South Regional Upgrades Project which was then sent to The Sellers Group and the Public Works for final review.

Larry Angelle recommended amendment changes to the architectural services scope and rates for the North Regional Library Upgrades Project and they were sent to Angelle Architects and the Public Works for final review.

Library currently waiting on the Lease Amendment for the Library Warehouse to be reviewed and signed by the Lessor of the building.

Northeast Library Project is pending Board of Control action.

East Regional Library has an emergency exit door threshold leak that is pending repair. The vending area roof leak has returned. Larry Angelle followed up with Architect and Contractor.

A burnt compressor was replaced on Condenser Unit 1B at the South Regional Library for \$5,772.98. Refrigerant cost was \$459.20. 1HP Condenser Motor was replaced on Condenser Unit 2A for \$525. 1/2HP Condenser Motor on Condenser Unit 3A was replaced for \$280.00.

Leaking condenser unit 1 stage 2 Coil was repaired at the North Regional Library and refrigerant was added for \$1,281. 1HP Condenser Motor was replaced for \$320.00.

There is a pending replacement of the heating element on Liebert CRAC Unit at the Main Library which will cost \$1,458.27. There have been issues with ERV 2, and the repair cost is not yet known. AHU 3-2 is making loud noises. This is likely a bearing issue in the blower. Repair cost not yet known. 1-3 bearings at the Main Library were replaced in Air Handler Unit AHU for \$2,495.00. Live Oak tree was trimmed off the building and off the lower rooftop at a cost of \$2,475. Main Library was pressure washed and windows have been cleaned. Library Directors Office window leak or roof leak occurred, cause not yet known.

As of June 13, 2022, the library has collected 11M in revenues and has spent 6.6M.

A 2% raise was passed per Joint Ordinance JO-038-2022 with an effective date of June 12, 2022 affecting the current fiscal year.

Estimated increase in cost for the remainder of the current Fiscal Year \$49,829.

Estimated recurring annual increase in cost for Next Fiscal Year \$124,000 per the estimates provided to the Board of Control at the May Budget Meeting.

Annual Administration Fees to LCG will decrease per Joint Ordinance JO-038-2022. This reduction in cost will affect the current fiscal year due to our cost cuts of last fiscal year. \$467,044 last year was reduced to \$428,477. This is a savings of \$38,597.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. New Business

A. Library Book Discards

A motion for the library to discard 7,319 books having been out of use for over a year due to the books being superseded, obsolete, unused, or otherwise unnecessary was made by Joan Wingate. This motion was seconded by James Thomas.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Armbruster

Absent: Kelly

B. Setting Millage Rates

The Board was provided with two options regarding millages for recommendation to LCG. Option A would levy the voter approved 2.91 millage at a rate of 2.91 and levy the voter approved 2.0 millage at a rate of 1.84. Option B would levy the voter approved 2.91 millage at a rate of 2.91 and levy the voter approved 2.0 millage at the adjusted maximum.

A motion was made by James Thomas to approve Option B, to levy the voter approved 2.91 millage at a rate of 2.91 and levy the voter approved 2.0 millage at a rate of 1.97 mills for a total of 4.88 mills. This motion was seconded by Joan Wingate.

Joseph Abraham spoke to the fact that Lafayette has the most donations made to library and per capita lending. He stated that Lafayette Parish has the least amount of millage funding.

Andrew Duhon asked that the Board not allow the libraries to be underfunded. And stated his support for Option B.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kelly

C. Out of Parish Card Policy/Bayouland

The Board was presented with changes to the Library Card Policy.

There is currently no data on the cost of out-of-parish borrower cards. Data will be available in roughly 15 months.

Limited-Use Library Cards, Section C) Computer Use Only Cards will now read Children may apply for their own limited-use card with a guardian present.

A motion was made by Landon Boudreaux to accept the draft with property owners presented to the Board with an edit to the Limited-Use Library Cards, Section C to now read Children may apply for their own limited-use card with a guardian present. This was seconded by Shane Landers.

Lynette Mejia spoke of the Bayouland Consortium. She stated that none of the other Bayouland Parishes are considering charging out-of-parish patrons. She asked that the Board consider voting against this motion.

Mary Lib Guercio thanked the Board for visuals displayed. She stated that she had spoken to someone from every library in the Bayouland Consortium, and said that St. Landry may charge a fee. She spoke to larger parishes in the area and got mixed results, and said that most reciprocal agreements are based on proximity. She stated that this will most adversely affect the poor, and urged the Board to give the policy change more thought.

Seth Roy stated that the library was for public access. He spoke against the removal of employment or school attendance from the policy.

Joseph Abraham spoke of the correlation between sales and property taxes, and multiplier effects. He stated that this will alienate people and is not strong fiscal policy.

Paige Beyt recommended that for clarity purposes, the policy be changed to add Children defined herein as, and Adults defined herein as, to the first page of the Lafayette Public Library (LPL) Library Card Policy.

Shane Landers amended to the original motion so that the policy also read Children defined herein as from birth to 8th grade and Adults defined herein as individuals from the 9th grade and above. This was seconded by Stephanie Armbruster.

This policy change does not affect Bayouland. The library saves around \$60,000/year by being a part of this Consortium.

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

The Board then voted on the original motion as made by Landon Boudreaux.

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

D. Northeast Library Committee Report

Northeast Library Committee scored all RFPs and recommended the highest scored property to the Board of Control for consideration and moving forward with the RFP.

Landon Boudreaux recommended that the Board establish a competitive range and negotiate with the properties within the competitive range. This would include ESD Investments and the Chappuis property.

It was stated that during the Northeast Library Committee meeting, ESD was scored 833/1000. Holy Rosary was scored 750/1000. Chappuis was scored 708/1000. Duhon was scored 601/1000.

Funding operations would consist of moving around library services. Changing certain library services or certain schedules could afford operating a new library at the current revenue. It was asked that a plan be presented to the Board.

A motion was made by James Thomas to approve the recommendation of the Northeast Regional Library Exploratory Committee and move forward with ESD Investments property, located at 2600 Louisiana Avenue. This was seconded by Joan Wingate.

Mary Lib Guercio spoke of library finances and stated that this library was immensely important to those in that area of town.

Joseph Abraham spoke of the children in the Northeast area of Lafayette. He asked that the Board trust the Library Administration.

An amendment to the original motion was made by Robert Judge to include the top two scored that met the RFP requirements including Chappuis Property and ESD Investments and that the Board establish a competitive range of 700 to include those two properties for further negotiation. This was seconded by Landon Boudreaux.

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

Nays: Armbruster

Abstained: None

Absent: Kelly

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

James Thomas asked if the Branch Managers had been provided a list of which displays were disallowed. The Director stated this included all displays that separate out a portion of the population.

Thomas stated his support for showcasing all things as much as possible.

This directive did not remove access to materials.

Portions of Bulletin Board, Exhibits, and Displays Policy were read.

Corey Grimley stated that libraries should not be used for advocacy under the guise of information. He stated that genuinely educational months are not currently a matter of political controversy.

Pablo Mejia stated his concern of the Board's violation of its Bylaws. Article 4. Section 3. states Board members shall also have the right to place matters on the agenda and should notify the Director of additional agenda items or agenda changes at least one day prior to the scheduled meeting. Thomas requested an item be placed on the agenda and the request was denied. He stated that this violated the Board Bylaws and possibly was in violation of Louisiana Statute 42:19.

Lynette Mejia reiterated that Article 4. Section 3. states that Board members shall also have the right to place matters on the agenda and should notify the Director of additional agenda items or agenda changes at least one day prior to the scheduled meeting. She stated that Thomas attempted to do so and this request was denied.

Jim Bass stated that people should not be hidden or treated as issues, but as people. He finds it troublesome that being someone that cannot be controlled is an issue that needs to be dealt with politically instead of empathetically and with compassion. He stated his hope for understanding.

Seth Roy stated that certain types of displays regarding particular populations within the community are banned within the library. He stated that displays by definition single out a portion of the population.

Cara Chance stated that this was absolutely an LGBT issue and it exists within the context of recurring censorship that is focused only, exclusively, and solely on LGBT and African-American interests and focus. She stated that the attempt to institutionalize disdain and discrimination in a government entity, it carries the weight and voice of every citizen in the Parish.

Linde Dean stated that she didn't want displays of things that go against a large percentage of the population's religion. She stated that a taxpayer-funded entity should be a neutral ground.

John Mikell spoke to the LPL Mission Statement. He encouraged the Board to follow the example of the Baton Rouge Library System.

Leslie Alexander stated her agreement with the display directive. She feels it inappropriate to use a neutral public gathering place to represent or force beliefs on others.

Mary Lib Guercio stated her disapproval of the directive and asked for further clarity. She stated that other parishes in the area did not have a policy over their displays. She asked for a legal opinion on the Bylaws.

X. Announcements

A. Executive Meeting, Scheduled for July 13, 2022

XI. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

David Pitre led the Board in a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary