

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

October 16, 2023

Recordings of all meetings can be found on the Library Board of Control page of the Lafayette Public Library website.

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 October 16, 2023. Daniel Kelly, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

I. Roll Call and Invocation

Board Members Present: Daniel Kelly, Board President; James Thomas, Board Vice President; Erasto Padron; Robert Judge; Ella Arsement; Stephanie Armbruster

Board Members Absent: David Pitre

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

The invocation was led by Daniel Kelly.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Daniel Kelly led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Erasto Padron.

Yeas: Kelly, Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Padron, Armbruster

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Pitre

The motion carries.

IV. Comments from the Library Board

There were no comments from the Board.

V. Interim Director's Report & Comments

Staff changes and vacancies were reported to the board.

LPL had a very successful Library Card Sign-Up Month. 1,388 limited edition cards by local artist Denise Gallagher were handed out to patrons. Denise also joined library staff on two media appearances—one with Shawn Murphy at BIG 102.1 FM and one with Brandon and Mark Pope at KPEL.

As LPL enters the 10th year of our Lafayette Reads Together program, the chair of the committee and the interim director have decided to press pause for a chance to reflect, regroup, and reimagine what the program will look like in the future. This decision was not made lightly, but for a myriad of reasons, staff felt it was the best course of action at this time. The director applauds all staff and community partners who have served on this committee in the past and present, as it is no easy task choosing a book that will appeal to the entire Lafayette community. Beyond that, an integral part of the program is hosting the author, which has become harder and harder to do as speaking and transportation fees have risen significantly. Some authors want upwards of \$50,000 and first-class airfare, which the library simply cannot afford. And in an effort to be completely transparent—yes, the intense scrutiny that public libraries are facing did play a small part in the decision but it was not the only reason. Discussion on the structure and future of LRT has been happening for a while now.

Ultimately, as September neared and the committee was still struggling to select a book for 2024, the director felt it was a good time to pause to reflect on the history of the program including its successes and failures and determine what the future of LRT looks like. The program is not cancelled or terminated. The library is simply taking time to find ways to revamp the program so it can continue to be successful in the future. The goal is for LRT to come back bigger and better than ever. This process is a natural part of libraries and long-running programs and services. The library did this recently with the Read to Me Book Club where registration did not open at the beginning of 2023 and staff took the time to focus on transitioning to the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten which just launched on October 2. While the traditional LRT program will not be happening in early 2024, staff are still working on booking an author to visit sometime in March. So be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

As mentioned, LPL launched the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program on October 2nd, which is funded by the LPL Foundation. This goal of the program is for parents to read 1000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten. Children receive prizes at registration as well as the 250, 500, 750, and 1000 book milestones.

In line with President Kylin Jordan's "*Getting Back to Basics*" theme for the year's work, the LPL Foundation's Major Events committee is fleshing out details for the April 19, 2024 luncheon. Please save the date for this Gatsby inspired event to be held at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette's Oil Center with a soon to be announced speaker and a major focus on Leaving a Literary Legacy. Looking to the future with a unified vision of the Foundation's mission, the LPLF Board of Directors will be soon entering

a strategic plan phase to maximize the continued work of the Foundation with a clearer focused mission guiding our growth and future.

VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report

The library addressed storytime warranty issue related to carpet selection in regard to the South Regional Library Upgrades. The Library Operations Manager and the South Regional Manager plan to meet with interior designer on Tuesday, October 17th to select different carpet for this area to ensure a warranty is obtained. The library discussed and confirmed with architect the new refrigerant line installation methods. One wall in the staff workroom will require removing wallpaper and cutting into the existing wall to install new refrigerant lines then refinishing and painting. While another wall in the adult fiction area will involve installing a small pilaster/column to hide the new refrigerant lines.

Library staff met with architect team for the North Regional Library Upgrades. Discussions led to the recommendation that due to the size of this location, the scope of work and the added cost of phasing, the project will likely not be phased. The North Regional Library will simply be closed for a few months and get all the interior work done as quickly as possible.

Public Works and Library Administration met with the Surveyor to discuss the Northeast Regional Library property. Public Works obtained existing property abstracts and sent to the surveyor to aid the research process. The Surveyor is expected to provide a cost estimate for survey services by October 13th. Legal is working on the purchase agreement/ordinance for the land acquisition.

In FY 22/23, the library has collected \$12.86 million and has spent \$10.4 million.

VII. New Business

A. Board Meetings

After board discussion, Robert Judge made a motion to adopt the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar as presented with the following adjustments: the January 8th meeting is moved to January 9th; the August 19th meeting is moved to August 5th; and the December (optional) meeting is removed from the calendar. The motion was seconded by James Thomas.

Yeas: Kelly, Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Padron, Armbruster

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Pitre

The motion carries.

B. Library Calendar

A motion to adopt the 2024 Library Holiday Calendar as presented was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Daniel Kelly.

Yeas: Kelly, Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Padron, Armbruster
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

The motion carries.

C. Policy Change

The board was asked to change the Exam Proctoring Policy to remove references to Bayouland reciprocal borrower cards to match changes made to the Library Card Policy in June 2022.

After board discussion, Robert Judge made a motion to adopt the policy change as presented with the addition of the term “full-service” so the policy would read:

Registered *full-service* library card holders in good standing with the Lafayette Public Library are eligible.

Ella Arsement seconded the motion.

Lynette Mejia commented.

Daniel Kelly asked for clarification on the Exam Proctoring Policy and who utilized this service.

After further discussion, Stephanie Armbruster made a motion that the proctoring policy be amended to remove the addition of “full-service” so the policy change is adopted as originally presented. Daniel Kelly seconded the motion.

Yeas: Kelly, Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Padron, Armbruster
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

The motion carries.

Daniel Kelly called for a vote of the amended motion. Erasto Padron clarified that the policy is interpreted as anyone with a registered library card, whether full-service or PC-only, is eligible for exam proctoring at the Lafayette Public Library.

Yeas: Kelly, Thomas, Judge, Arsement, Padron, Armbruster
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

The amended motion carries.

D. Election of Officers

A motion to elect Daniel Kelly as Library Board President for the 2023-2024 term was made by Erasto Padron and seconded by Robert Judge.

Amanda Anderson and Lynette Mejia commented.

The vote for President was as follows:

Daniel Kelly: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Thomas, Padron, Kelly
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

Daniel Kelly was elected as the Library Board President.

A motion to elect James Thomas as Library Board Vice-President for the 2023-2024 term was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Erasto Padron.

A motion to elect Stephanie Armbruster as Library Board Vice-President for the 2023-2024 term was made by Daniel Kelly and seconded by Erasto Padron.

The vote for Vice- President was as follows:

James Thomas: Arsement, Thomas
Stephanie Armbruster: Padron, Kelly, Judge, Armbruster
Abstained: None
Absent: Pitre

Stephanie Armbruster was elected as the Library Board Vice-President.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, November 20, 2023.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2023.

IX. Public Comments on any Library business which is not an agenda item.

Amanda Anderson, Eb Hoehl, Cara Chance, Steven Lazarus, Mary Lib Geurcio, and Lynette Mejia commented.

X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

Daniel Kelly led the board in a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary