

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

April 15, 2024

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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on April 15, 2024. Stephanie Armbruster, Vice-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; Stephanie Armbruster, Board Vice President; Ella Arsement; Robert Judge; Allan Moore

Board Members Absent: Erasto Padron; James Thomas

Other Staff Present: Sarah Monroe, Interim Library Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager

The invocation was led by Robert Judge.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Stephanie Armbruster led the board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Allan Moore.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Padron, Thomas

The motion carries.

**IV. Comments from the Library Board**

Allan Moore asked to read the following prepared statement:

Lafayette Public Library should be a safe place for all patrons, especially our children. Recent news reports, social media, and those whose values are not in sync

with what is best for the interest of our children have been peddling false narratives and a significant amount of misinformation regarding the decision of the Lafayette Library Board to revise the library's book display policy. It's time to set that record straight. The current Lafayette Public Library Board, by majority vote, recently revised and approved the Lafayette Public Library book display policy to align with the current Louisiana state law. The revised book display policy provides safeguards to protect children from graphic and sexually explicit material that may threaten the age of innocence and their well-being and also respect parental authority. There is no appropriate way to display inappropriate and harmful sexually explicit material to children. Children in Lafayette are amongst our most vulnerable. They have a right to be protected from materials and content that sexualizes them, violates their age of innocence, and harms their well-being. The revised Lafayette Library book display policy protects our children and their well-being, respects parental authority, and aligns with Louisiana state law.

## **V. Interim Director's Report & Comments**

Staff changes and vacancies were reported to the board.

The library is hard at work preparing for the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library, and patrons will win prizes for reading 30 days over the summer. Patrons who read 50 days will get a bonus prize. Patrons are invited to visit the Main Library on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Summer Reading Kickoff event from 10:00-2:00.

It's not too late to buy a ticket for the annual Foundation luncheon happening this Friday, April 19 starting at 11:00 am. The theme is Become a Literary Legend, and they are launching a new endowment campaign called 24K in '24.

Sarah Monroe, interim Library Director, attended the Friends and Foundation board meetings.

And finally, Monroe announced that this will be her final board meeting. Her last day with LPL will be April 26, 2024. She greatly values the skills, abilities, and experiences working for LPL has afforded her over the past 11 years, and she has loved being able to serve her community in this capacity. This was a hard decision to make, but ultimately, Monroe said it was the right choice for her right now. She said she'll still be around as a patron though.

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

Legal is working on finalizing the land purchase for the Northeast Library.

Updated pricing proposal for the stairwell glass panel at the Main Library was received on March 27, 2024. Glass samples were received and approved on April 4, 2024. Purchase order was issued and the order placed on April 12, 2024.

Library Administration is actively pursuing an agreement with the City of Carencro Police Department for security at the North Regional Library during peak operation times.

In FY 23/24, the library has collected \$12.6 million and has spent \$5.4 million.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Report of Director Search Committee**

Stephanie Armbruster, Committee Chair, reported that they have received six applications for Director—three from in-state and three from out-of-state. Armbruster and Allan Moore gave an update on the Committee’s paid advertising efforts with INALJ (I Need a Library Job) and LinkedIn. Unfortunately, there were some issues advertising through LinkedIn that are still being worked through.

Armbruster motioned to extend the application deadline to May 31, 2024. Ella Arsement seconded the motion.

Mary Lib Guercio and Claire Delcambre commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Padron, Thomas

The motion carries.

### **B. Northeast Library Community Committee**

Ella Arsement provided an update on the status of the Northeast Library Community Committee. James Thomas will remain as the Chair of the Committee, and Board President, Daniel Kelly, approved the following community members to serve on the Committee: Ella Arsement, Consuela Gains, Mary Lib Guercio, AB Rubin, Ken Stansbury, and Alton Trahan. The Committee is expected to hold its first meeting sometime in May 2024.

### **C. DVD Checkout Period**

Interim Director, Sarah Monroe, requested that the Board approve extending the checkout period for DVDs from 1 week to 3 weeks. Over the past five years, DVD circulation has decreased 58% which has led to more DVDs being on the shelf at

any given time. DVDs are still a popular collection, just not as popular as before widespread streaming services. The Library has greatly reduced the number of DVDs it purchases, but there are still overcrowding issues on the shelves. Increasing the checkout length would theoretically keep the DVDs off the shelf and out of the branch longer, meaning less crowding. This would also match the checkout length for books and most other library materials.

A motion to extend the DVD checkout period to 3 weeks was made by Stephanie Armbruster and seconded by Daniel Kelly.

Ryan Broussard commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Kelly, Moore

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Padron, Thomas

The motion carries.

#### D. Mission Statement

Robert Judge passed out a packet of information to the board members regarding the mission statement. Judge spoke on his reasoning for proposing revisions to the mission statement including not duplicating services provided by Lafayette Consolidated Government through the Parks and Recreation Department and Community Development Department. After discussion, Judge motioned to adopt the following revised mission statement:

The Lafayette Public Library exists to enhance the quality of life of the residents of Lafayette Parish by providing access to high-quality, cost-effective library services that meet the needs and expectations of the community and to provide opportunities for life-long learning in accordance with this community's standards.

Allan Moore seconded the motion.

Lynette Mejia, Anne Swanson, Claire Delcambre, Neureka Ross, Anna Gauthier, Ryan Broussard, Melany Champagne, Cara Chance, Mary Lib Guercio, and Betsy Hackett commented.

Yeas: Armbruster, Arsement, Judge, Moore

Nays: Kelly

Abstained: None

Absent: Padron, Thomas

The motion carries.

**VIII. Announcements**

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board Meeting will be Monday, May 20, 2024.
- B. Reminder that the Personal Finance Disclosure form is due on or before May 15, 2024.
- C. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2024.

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

Lynette Mejia, Ryan Broussard, Melany Champagne, Mary Lib Guercio, and Art Connor commented.

**X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment**

The closing prayer was led by Allan Moore. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary