

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

February 19, 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 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on February 19, 2024. 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; Stephanie Armbruster, Board Vice President; Ella Arsement; Allan Moore; Erasto Padron; James Thomas; Robert Judge

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 January 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Erasto Padron.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion carries.

IV. Comments from the Library Board

Ella Arsement addressed the recurring comments from the public that the Board of Control is not qualified to serve on the Board since they do not have a degree in Library Science. The only two qualifications to serve on the Board is that you must be a resident of Lafayette Parish, and you must be 18 years or older. She reminded the community that this is a volunteer position, and she has 25 years of life experience volunteering

and working with people from all walks of life from the community. She said anyone serving on the Board may not need the degree, but that they should be willing to learn about the library system as a whole and the issues that come before the board for a vote, as she does. She also addressed the decorum and intentions of the public who attend the Board meetings. Finally, she addressed comments that the Board does not care about or support librarians and library staff members. She said this is not true, and that communication, respect, and trust is a two-way street, specifically in regard to controversial things in the community like the return of book displays.

V. Interim Director's Report & Comments

Staff changes and vacancies were reported to the board.

LPL announced it will be migrating its eBook and eAudiobook collections from Overdrive/Libby to cloudLibrary. This decision was not made easily, but ultimately it was decided to be the best choice for the library. After a demonstration of the platform in Fall 2023 and much discussion between Bayouland members and LPL staff including speaking to other libraries in the state that have made the switch, the decision to migrate the digital collections to cloudLibrary was made in January 2024. The biggest advantage has been an increase in savings. Previously, the library paid \$12,000 a year to access OverDrive. Please note this does not include the price of buying the content, just the platform. In comparison, the current annual subscription cost for cloudLibrary is \$3,000 with a \$145 cloudLink fee (with the first year of \$3,000 being waived). Also, the library paid \$5,700 for access to Flipster Magazines which provided access to approximately 36 different magazines. Through cloudLibrary's NewsStand, the library will be paying \$6,000 for access to over 7,500 magazines and newspapers. Comics Plus is also being tested out for one year to gauge popularity, which will be \$5,400 for access to over 25,000 digital comics, graphic novels, and manga. So if you've been doing the math, we'll be getting cloudLibrary, NewsStand, and Comics Plus offering LPL patrons tens of thousands of more digital reading options, for less than we were just paying for OverDrive. And the best part is that the eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, and comics will be accessible through one app.

Once cloudLibrary goes live and the OverDrive content has been migrated to the new platform, LPL patrons will not only have access to the materials purchased for the digital collection, but they will have access to the collections of over 30 other Louisiana libraries that use cloudLibrary. The other libraries will also have access to LPL's collection, but they will only be able to borrow an item if it is not currently checked out. This gives LPL patrons priority access and the sole ability to place holds on LPL's content. Library Administration believes that this setup should reduce wait times for books as some holds are as long as 6 months now.

All in all, cloudLibrary will offer many benefits to patrons. Unfortunately, the biggest downside to this switch is that cloudLibrary is not compatible with Kindle e-readers like the Paperwhite. This is because Amazon and OverDrive have an exclusive contract giving only OverDrive the ability to offer Kindle compatible eBooks. cloudLibrary is

actively trying to secure compatibility, and patrons can submit a complaint to Kindle requesting cloudLibrary receive a Kindle compatibility contract. cloudLibrary is still available on iPhones, Androids, and tablets including the Kindle Fire. Library Administration is aware this will negatively impact some patrons who use Kindle e-ink readers, but ultimately, all the pros outweighed this one con and there is hope that this will change in the future. In the end, OverDrive having a monopoly on managing the availability and distribution of eBooks and eAudiobooks benefits no one but OverDrive.

The app is still being tested and staff are being trained, but patrons will have full access starting February 26th. However, the current OverDrive collection will not be merged until March 13th. Some disruptions to service are anticipated during the migration, but staff are trying to make it as smooth as possible for everyone involved. Everyone's patience during this time is much appreciated.

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

VI. Facilities Update & Financial Report

Minor changes to the South Regional Library Renovation Project's Construction Documents were addressed by Public Works. Insurance requirements were acquired from Risk Management Department and specifications have been updated to reflect. Public Works is in the process of compiling documents to send project documents to Purchasing Department for final review.

The North Regional Library Renovation Project's Design Development plans and cost estimates for electrical and mechanical consultants were received by the Architect. The Civil Engineer provided the service proposal to the Architect. The proposal is under review by the Architect.

In regard to the Northeast Library, the City Planning Commission met on January 22, 2024. The preliminary plat was approved to subdivide the 10-acre lot into 6 and 4 acres. The waiver was approved as it relates to extending Venus Drive. The library or land owner will not have to extend this road as part of the development. A traffic impact analysis was not specifically required but the Library was instructed to work with the Traffic Department as it relates to this item. An ordinance authorizing the 6-acre tract is being introduced to the Parish Council on February 20th and voted on for final adoption on March 5th.

The Main Library is still waiting on a pricing proposal to replace the glass panel in the stairwell.

New leaks were reported at the South Regional Library (10 in Story-Time, 1 in Children's Area, 2 in AV, 1 in Non-Fiction). The Library Operations Manager,

Maintenance staff, and the Architect investigated the leaks. The Library Operations Manager made a warranty claim and inspected repair work. Staff are monitoring.

A roof leak was reported in the staff workroom and meeting room hall at the East Regional Library. A warranty claim was made by the Library Operations Manager. Repair is pending.

In FY 23/24, the library has collected \$8.3 million and has spent \$4 million.

VII. New Business

A. Report of Director Search Committee

Stephanie Armbruster, committee chair, reported that the first Director Search Committee meeting took place on January 29, 2024. She reviewed the proposed job posting and description.

After discussion of application deadline, salary range, and minor grammatical and stylistic choices, Daniel Kelly motioned to accept the proposed job posting with the discussed changes. Ella Arsement seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Mary Lib Guercio commented.

The motion carries.

Next, the Board discussed the proposed job description. After a few clarifications and ensuring the description matched the job posting, Robert Judge motioned to accept the proposed job description with discussed changes. Erasto Padron seconded.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The motion carries.

After approval of the job posting and description, the Board discussed advertising the position, both through free services and purchasing paid advertising. Robert Judge motioned to authorize the Director Search Committee to advertise within the budget of \$1,000 as they deem appropriate. Ella Arsement seconded.

Mary Lib Guercio commented.

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

The motion carries.

B. Status Change of Library Position

After Board discussion and comments from the interim Library Director, Daniel Kelly motioned to approve changing the status of one vacant Library Technical Assistant I position from Regular Less Than Full-Time to Regular Full-Time. Ella Arsement seconded the motion.

Claire Delcambre commented.

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

The motion carries.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board Meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2024.
- B. 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.

Cara Chance, Arthur Connor, Mary Lib Guercio, and Kimberly Price commented.

X. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

The closing prayer was led by Robert Judge. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Monroe, Interim Secretary