

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

September 15, 2025

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 September 15, 2025. 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; Allan Moore, Board Vice President; Ella Arsement; Eric Baquet

Board Members Absent: Robert Judge, Erasto Padron, Rena Bradley

Other Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Dawn Williams, Assistant Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Nancy Hebert, Administrative Assistant; Stuart Breaux, Attorney

The invocation was led by Daniel Kelly.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Comments from the Library Board

Board President Daniel Kelly thanked Robert Judge for his service. Ella Arsement seconded this sentiment.

Board Vice President Allan Moore stated:

I think the violence that we've witnessed in our nation over the last few weeks is staggering. From the 23-year-old Ukrainian young lady Iryna Zarutska, who via multiple stab wounds to the neck lost her life, the hotel manager Mr. Chandra Nagamallaiah that was brutally beheaded, and of course as many of us are familiar with, Mr. Charlie Kirk, a man passionate in his desire to engage young people on college campuses in factual debate on important political life and spiritual issues for the express purpose of continuing this 250-year-old beautiful experiment that we call the United States of America. Charlie was martyred by an assassin's bullet through the throat for inviting others into conversation, inviting them to think critically and compare and contrast ideals and beliefs that shape our world. Charlie believed that when people stop talking, that's when things get violent. That when civil war

happens because you start thinking the other side is so evil and they lose their humanity. Charlie laid his life for his Christian beliefs and his political convictions. A belief in the principles that made America the great nation that it is, the greatest nation that the world has ever known. A belief that the first amendment is not a privilege to be granted or revoked by a politician or government anywhere but it is a right that each of us were born with., every one of us, all rooted in the precious words of our Declaration of Independence. That is, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. There's one of the many beautiful things that I want to use as a reminder for us here from Charlie's life and his wonderful example. Everyone's opinion matters and deserves to be given an opportunity to state their beliefs and all of it is to be weighed in the light of what is true, what is just, and what is righteous. When I was appointed to this Board back in 2023, articles were written that says another pastor appointed to the Board of Control. Well this is true. I do believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe that God's word is what we should use for our moral, spiritual, and intellectual compass. I believe Jesus Christ is the all-satisfying treasure of my life, personally, according to Philippians 3:8. I believe and trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for my salvation according to Romans 10:9-13, and I believe that God's word is what we should use as a supreme ethic according to 2 Timothy 3:16. And if you'd like to talk more about that after I'd love to talk to you after the meeting. But here the beautiful part, this is the beautiful part, you don't have to agree with me. You don't. You don't have to agree me, you're free to disagree. We give three minutes to anyone that wills for every motion that comes up to stand at that podium and share what your opinions are. And above and beyond that, outside of the rules and regulations of open meeting laws, we give an additional three minutes at the end of every meeting for you to come and discuss any library business that you would like to discuss. Let's just do it all with a respect for one another, with a dignity, with an ardent desire to factually support what each one of our claims are, with the humility to stop and to intently listen to one another, to consider the facts, and to make an informed decision based on what is true, what is just, and what is righteous. The disrespect, the name-calling, the violence, the laughing, the ridiculing, let's all stop and let's work together for the betterment of our community. We don't solve problems by silencing each other. We solve them by sharpening truth against error in the public square. This is our community. We make it what we want to make it. Let's all join together and steward this with passion and integrity, and a genuine concern for the person that sits next to us, whether they agree with us or disagree with us. Let's come together and make our community a better place to live.

Mr. President, at this moment I would like to ask for a silent moment of prayer to honor all of those that have lost their lives in recent memory, most recent of Charlie Kirk, as we remember all that they gave their life for and believed.

I'd like to address a few other items of concern. A few comments that Councilman Rubin made at the August 19, 2025 Parish Council meeting. One can reference the quotes that I'm about to read to you from the website video.ibm.com/recorded/134472276, that is where LCG posts all of their meetings. The time stamp for this first one is 56:33. While addressing crime concerns in regards to the placement of the new Northeast Regional Library, and I'm quoting Councilman Rubin here, he said the following: "Hello, we have security guards at

every library right now as we speak, okay? And if we put the proper people in place at the Library Board, we can get rid of the extra security that we have at the library.” The first claim in his statement is that we have security guards at every library. That is factually incorrect. We currently have a total of nine library branches, and of those, we have police officers at two. Main and Carencro, with another intermittent security guard at Butler, all which are paid for through the library’s annual budget. Secondly, I’m calling on Councilman Rubin to explain what he meant by stating that if the proper people are put on the Board, we can get rid of extra security. Councilman, are you asserting that the composition of the Board of Control determines the threat level and security posture of the Lafayette Public Library system? If you believe current Board actions have increased risk to patrons, staff, media, or legal counsel, I call on you to immediately identify the specific actions, incidents, dates, and any law enforcement guidance that support those conclusions. As Vice President of the Board I request that you contact me or the President at once so that this matter can be addressed with action. The Board’s highest priority is to ensure that all who use the Lafayette Public Library system are able to attend meetings, use our facilities, and return home safely. Because the Library Board of Control derives its authority from the Parish Council, I respectfully request that the Parish Council provide immediate guidance either remedying the claims that there were a threat or clarifying publicly that no such risks exist, so that the public and the staff can be assured of their personal safety.

The third item that I’d like to address is comments by Councilman Boudreaux. It’s that same meeting, and so you can reference the same video at time stamp 1:47:08. Councilman Boudreaux stated, “Three Library Directors all told me in this room (that being the Parish Council) you know, we’ve got the Bookmobile, marginalizing me again.” For the record, the history of Directors for the Lafayette Parish Library within the not so recent past is as follows: Director Teresa Elberson introduced the Bookmobile in 2019. Mr. Danny Gillane, our current Director, became the Director after Ms. Elberson left in March of 2021. Ms. Sarah Monroe then served as an Interim Director from August 2023 until her resignation in April of 2024, at which point Mr. Gillane again resumed the role of Director in May of 2024. Now in conversations with Mr. Gillane, he has confirmed directly that he has never made such a statement and would never make a statement minimizing an entire section of our community by suggesting that a mobile service is sufficient in place of a full-fledged library branch. While I cannot speak to any private conversations that Mr. Boudreaux may have had with Ms. Elberson or Ms. Monroe, the claim that three Directors told him the Bookmobile is enough is demonstrably false. Mr. Gillane, have you ever told Mr. Boudreaux that a Bookmobile was enough to serve the North section of town? Let the record reflect that Mr. Gillane said that he has not. So Councilman Boudreaux, I therefore call on you for the following: either provide the names, dates, and context for the three Directors who allegedly made these statements, or issue a public correction so our citizens, especially those in Northern Lafayette, are not misled into believing that the library leadership has dismissed their need for a permanent library branch. The truth is, that Director Gillane and this Board have consistently supported the need for expanding services in Northern Lafayette. Any claim to the contrary undermines public trust and misrepresents the records of fact, which I will present further hereon.

Number four, I'd like to address the timeline for the Northeast Regional Library. I would highlight the timeline for the Northeast Regional Library that was developed by Mr. Larry Angelle, our Operations Manager, on December 14, 2021. I did confirm with Mr. Angelle that that timeline was generated back then and has not been changed and updated as things have gone along. And so for the record, Mr. Angelle, can you confirm that?

Angelle stated that minor edits only marked the project's progress and that the contents themselves remained unchanged.

Contents and dates stayed the same, thank you. So with that, I think it's important to understand that this timeline is posted publicly on our website at lafayettepubliclibrary.org, it's in the top right-hand corner, click the link labeled Northeast Library Information & Updates, it's yellowish and grey. On that page, select the History & Timeline Estimate. That will pull up another page from our OneDrive and it will show, and I encourage you all to go look this up, and to look at the third page of the document. There you will see a green icon labeled 'You are here' (kind of like when you look at the little maps at the rest center), that green icon directly lines up with February 2025, exactly as Mr. Angelle predicted four years ago. As you will recall, the Board was holding this meeting to approve the suggested library on February 17, 2025. This means that over the course of four years, the Board was right on time with the original timeline estimates projected by Mr. Angelle and it's in the public domain for everyone to see. I please, please I beg of you, go look at it. Go familiarize yourself with it.

The fifth thing and final thing I want to address before we get to the presentation and celebrate the great things that have happened here at the library over the last few years, is the Mayor-President's comments in the LCG August 19, 2025 Parish Council meeting, which are posted, also at the video.[.ibm.com/recorded/134472276](https://www.ibm.com/recorded/134472276), first time stamp is at 51:15. The Mayor said, and I quote, "the reason it came to my attention is because the Library Board stood here and told me the Library Board indefinitely deferred the library. So while we had waited from 2019 to 2025 today, what the Library Board did that week was indefinitely defer. I was told they didn't mean it, but in legal terms, and in government terms, you actually mean what you say when you take a formal action like that. So, in the delay, what the Board has been doing since 2019, is jockeying the community back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. We can talk about delay, but when I heard indefinitely delayed, is when I stepped in (I being the Mayor) stepped in and asked him (referring to the City Attorney) what the disposition of this government was, that is, our facility, the Library Board does not have the legal authority to open a checking account, much less own a building that we are liable for and it's my name that goes on the contract. It's much bigger than a committee making a decision, it is a legal part of this government, of which I am the administrator (Mayor speaking) and you are (referring to the Council) those that decide how this money is spent. So, we all have a higher level of responsibility when making decisions than any of the Boards that we appoint. Sorry."

So I'd like to make a note that the Mayor's comments that I'm about to read to you come right after Councilman Guilbeau and also Mr. Danny Gillane are in a conversation, and Councilman Guilbeau asks Danny Gillane, and I'm quoting him, "Is the project dead?" to

which Danny responds, “No sir.” Councilman Guilbeau continues, “what I understood from many calls is that they are looking for more information in order to make a sound decision in terms of which way to go.” Director Danny replied, “yes sir”. Keeping that in mind, the first part of her comment, of the Mayor’s comment that I would like to address is this part, “the reason it came to my attention is because the Library Board stood here and told me that the Library Board indefinitely deferred the library.” Number one, I believe the Mayor was referring to the Library Director, not the Library Board, but the Library Director stood there being at the Parish Council and claimed in that meeting on February 18, 2025, this video can be found in video.ibm.com/recorded/13423350 and at the time stamp 39:39, the following conversation ensued, I beg of you to just bear with me, because its far time that we get fact and information exactly as it took place, because it is in the public domain for everyone to go and see. I did the work and went and pulled the videos, pulled their destinations, pulled the actual time stamps, for you to be able to go and pull this information yourself.

So we start out, Mayor-President speaking. “So, I was not at the meeting, nor did I watch the meeting.” She’s referring to the meeting that we had the day before, where the library decision to build the library was postponed indefinitely. “I was not at the meeting, nor did I watch the meeting, but I am curious as to the nature of the concerns of the Board as they would delay the library.” The Library Director Mr. Gillane responds “they received a well one Board member” and I apologize if it sounds like I’m breaking it up, I’m reading it as it was spoken, “they received, one Board member provided me with a spreadsheet Friday, and so, day before the weekend, and asked if we could provide the information and we managed to get it together.” The Mayor-President asked, “what type of information?” Library Director responds and says, “about comparing the existing libraries we have with the proposed library that we want to build and so we managed to get all that information gathered together before the Board meeting, but the Board essentially only had a few hours.” The Mayor-President says, “are they looking to build a similar library? Right? Is it what it is?” Library Director responds, “the original plan was to build a 13,000 square foot library and current, and with a warehouse for the library, and current spending power of that money is about 12,000 square feet and no warehouse. So the committee, after the consultant, the committee came up with a very, almost 20/21,000 square foot library, if you incorporate everything that the public input indicated we wanted, and about 17,500 square feet of library based on what me and the Library Operations Manager Mr. Angelle put together and came up with to provide what we thought would be a good library. Also, we figured we would need to move approximately 4M from our fund balance into the capital fund in order to build that library. But the committee, when they met, they voted for a larger library and we hadn’t really, the Board had not really been exposed to that prior to the meeting. And so the extra cost would be about 2.5M, which we have in the fund balance.” The Mayor-President responds, “mmhmm.” The Library Director continues, “and the operating cost would be a little higher than we thought it would be, and while we can afford it, the Board never really saw those numbers prior to last night.” The Mayor-President asks, “okay, and so the vote last night, what was it to move forward? With a particular plan?” The Library Director responds, “the vote last night on the original agenda was to consider which plan to move forward, but instead the vote was postponed, making that decision, and they assigned me some more information to provide for them, and tomorrow morning I will be sending it to

them.” The Mayor-President said “okay great, we look forward to seeing how it progresses, thank you.” Library Director responded “alright”. Mayor-President said again, “thank you.”

So the second comment by the Mayor that I would like to address is in her opening quote, is this, “so while we had waited from 2019 to 2025, today, what the Library Board did that week was indefinitely defer. I was told they didn’t mean it, but in legal terms, and in government terms, you actually mean what you say when you take formal action like that.” I would like to remind you that on the night of this meeting, which you can find on YouTube at the Lafayette Public Library channel, in the video entitled 2025-02-17 Library Board of Control, the following statements were made specifically addressing what it means to defer indefinitely. I’m gonna go through multiple timestamps here, please bear with me. At 1:15:02, I personally make a statement that declares that I want to be crystal clear, quoting myself here, “if the data comes back and it says we need a 25,000 square foot library, I’m in favor of that. I’m not trying to minimize anything. I’m trying to make sure that we are providing the best service to our parish that we possibly can, while showing financial austerity, because that is what is going to ensure the longevity of this library, and ensure the system for generations to come.” Mr. Judge at 1:18:20, Judge reports on a motion, or makes a motion, to postpone indefinitely. He explains, and I quote, “under Robert’s Rules of Order, doing so would take it out of this meeting and place it on the agenda for another time. It has to do with technicalities with that or tabling it. You don’t want to table it, again, it’s just a technicality.” So Robert clarified right away that it just means it would be pushed to another meeting, not to kill the project. A quick search, that anyone can do and confirm in Robert’s Rules of Order, defines postpone indefinitely as a subsidiary motion whose purpose is to dispose of a main motion without directly voting on it. It kills the motion for that session only. If the motion to postpone indefinitely passes, the main motion is disposed of for the duration of that session. However, it can be brought up again in a future meeting i.e. again, it is not permanently killed. At 2:12:51 in this video, Robert again explains what the motion to postpone indefinitely, and I quote Robert here, “it simply takes it off of this meeting. That’s all it does.” At 2:17:50, we see an aggressive actor move toward the Board by a patron approaching the dais and destroying library property, and flipping things off of tables. Hence my appeal earlier; the disrespect, the name-calling, the violence must stop. We don’t solve problems by silencing each other, we solve them by sharpening the truth against error in the public square in unity. 2:23:20 in, Mr. Daniel Kelly, the Board President, asked our Library Director “how quickly can you have the data the Board needs?”, denoting that he wants to have a meeting to make a decision on the library size immediately. At 2:25:46, Mr. Judge explains that the Board President can call a special meeting at any time; that he can put it into an agenda for the next meeting or a special meeting. He then explains, once again, the meaning of postponing indefinitely. Daniel Kelly, at 2:27:56, the Board President asks Danny if he can get this data to us within the next couple of days. And I quote Mr. Kelly here, “we’re going to see if we can have a meeting at least by Monday of next week, or Tuesday of next week.” Finally, 2:29:10, Ms. Ella, she asks for operational costs for the library as an additional data point needed to make a decision. She says she doesn’t want to see the library go back to where it was, and not be able to support all of its open branches.

So in review of these sections, you might be sitting there saying Allan, man, why are you presenting us with these endless timestamps and all this information? Because these are the facts, as laid out, that speak clearly for themselves. To anyone listening or to anyone willing to inquire, to go out, and to look the video up, to honestly pick up the phone and ask a question of a Board member, what does it mean to be deferred indefinitely? It is the evidence that there was never a real controversy. The Library Board's intent was simply to gather the necessary information so that we could the best, most responsible decision for our community. Something apparent to anyone in the meeting, anyone that cared enough to go back and watch the meeting, or pick up the phone and call a Board member and inquire as to why the vote didn't happen on the night of February 17, 2025. Furthermore, all of the claims of delay, dragging feet, resistance to building a new library, are proven and patently false. The confirmed project timeline I shared with you momentarily ago on our website, and the very quote being sited demonstrates the Board has been working consistently and deliberately toward this goal. At no point did the Board act to obstruct progress; rather, it sought clarity and data to ensure wise stewardship of taxpayer funds. The record shows that the Board was acting squarely within its fiduciary responsibility according to RS25:215, which entrusts the governance of the library system to the Board. Seeking additional information before committing parish resources to a major building project is not a delay for its own sake, it's due diligence. Due diligence that is required when you are the head of the library or the Library Director, and tell the Mayor, as of February 18 Parish Council meeting, that the Board only had the information for a few hours. Our request for more information was not obstruction, but rather an essential part of ensuring that any decision about the new library facility is made wisely, and in long-term best interest of the people of our community.

I apologize for droning on, but it's the facts. The last section of the comment by the Mayor-President that I would like to address, and I quote, "so in the delay, what the Board has been doing since 2019 is jockeying with the community back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. We can talk about delay, but when I heard indefinitely delayed is when I stepped in (again being the Mayor) asking him (again being the Parish Attorney) what the disposition of this government was. This is our facility; the Library Board doesn't have the legal authority to open a checking account, much less own a building. We are liable. It's my name that goes on the contract. It's much bigger than a committee making a decision, it's a legal part of this government of which I am the administrator (being the Mayor) and you are those (being the Council) that decides how the money is spent. So we all have a higher level of responsibility when making decisions than any of the boards that we appoint today. Sorry."

Let's talk, number one, statutory authority. Louisiana law is clear on the governance of parish libraries. RS25:215 provides that, and I'm quoting from the law, the board of control shall have authority to establish rules and regulations for its own government and that of the library. This statute entrusts the library board of control with fiduciary and operational responsibility for that library system. The Parish Council and the Mayor-President hold important responsibilities in appropriations, contracting, and liability, but the law places the governance of the library itself, its policies, rules, and operation, in the hands of the Board.

Number two, collaboration required by law in good governance. Because a new library facility involves both public funding and operational deployment, no single body can or should make the decision unilaterally. The Mayor's office and the Council provide contracting authority, ensuring legality of expenditures and assume liability on executing agreements. The Library Board of Control provides oversight of how dedicated library funds are spent and ensure facilities align with the missions and the needs of the library system. This arrangement establishes a check and balance system, the very nature of government. The governing authority cannot appropriate a contract effectively without library input, and the library cannot fulfill its fiduciary duties without the participation in that site planning.

Number three, leveraging professional expertise. Beyond the statutory framework, I think it's good process, and it dictates that the planning of a site and the selection of a new library draws on the skills and talents and professional ability of many of our very talented staff and administration. The Library Board brings fiduciary oversight and direct accountability to taxpayers for the library system. We are accountable to the taxpayers. The library staff and administration contribute specialized expertise in space planning, technology integration, children's and adult services, and long-term sustainability of facilities in a given location. The Mayor's office ensures compliance with parish contracting rules and fiscal stewardship. Excluding any of these partners diminishes the overall quality and effectiveness of the outcome as a whole.

Conclusion: For these reasons, the planning, timing, and site selection of the new library facilities must be a collaborative process between the Mayor's office, the Parish Council, and the Library Board of Control. This is not only required by statute, (in my opinion, I'm not a lawyer, we are working with Mr. Stuart on that one) but it is also the only way to ensure that taxpayer funds are invested wisely in a facility that is both sound and operationally effective. To that end, the Board has conducted an internal diligent study using a clear decision framework, because to date, nothing has been given to us or to the administration to my knowledge – Mr. Danny, have you received anything from the Mayor's office on any type of study or any type of information about the selection of the site? The new site?

The Director indicated that he had not.

Okay, so we've commissioned our own internal diligence study, with the framework of the following: access to people in transit, equity in community benefit, safety risk and resilience, site readiness and deliverability, synergies and strategic fit, and overall cost consideration. We look forward to sharing this framework with the full Board as a precursor to what we hope will be a renewed spirit of collaboration between the Board, the Mayor-President's office and the Parish Council. Mayor-President, as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees, I respectfully call upon your office to open direct communication with the Board President and myself, so that together, we can move forward in this project for the good of our community and build this library.

Ella Arsement stated that on August 19 the Mayor-President said the Board intended to indefinitely defer the project. She clarified that the Board had already voted on March 17 to recommend a building plan, and she expressed confusion about the Mayor-President's

remark. Arsement added that only Parish Council approval, Mayor-President approval, and her signature on the contract remained, and that construction on the Northeast Library would have already begun if those steps had been completed. Arsement observed that attendees repeatedly accused the Board of causing delays, often using harsh language, yet none of those individuals have criticized the Mayor-President for delaying the project, which remains on hold. Arsement questioned why this is not viewed as a problem. She further noted that on March 17 the LCG attorney reminded the Board that land had been purchased for the library and that a contract existed with Ziler Architects for its construction. Arsement stated that on April 29 the Mayor-President removed the library from the Board's purview and chose to relocate it to a different property. She asked whether the Mayor-President has the authority to make such a decision without a public meeting with the Board. Additional questions were raised regarding Ziler Architects' role, whether they remain contracted to build the library or if another party has been assigned, and what discussions are occurring about the project. Arsement requested clarification on how the Board will be involved with the Northeast Library moving forward. Arsement stated that she would like those questions addressed. She further asked why the Board is trusted to oversee all other libraries and handle contracts brought forward by library staff for approval, yet not trusted with this particular library. She emphasized that the Board had taken time to research, deliberate, and ensure that its decision served the best interest of the public. She stated that she would like to go on the record saying it is not wise to spend taxpayer money building a multimillion dollar facility on land the library does not even own. Arsement stated that the situation does not make common sense to her. She noted that the Board already had property for the library, and the reason given on April 29 for relocating it was accessibility challenges. She found this explanation surprising, as she would not have supported purchasing the land if she had not believed it would adequately serve residents in northeast Lafayette. Arsement explained that she reviewed the record from her first meeting as a Library Board member on June 19, 2023, where she specifically asked if the Shadow Bluff property would serve the citizens of northeast Lafayette well. She recalled that the vice president at the time, who was leading the meeting, confirmed that it met all requirements and was located just off Louisiana Avenue, near the previously considered site near Infinity College. Arsement added that both government and community leaders had supported the site at that time. Arsement recalled that at the same meeting, the Board also considered the LPSS property across from Shadow Bluff. She noted that James Thomas expressed appreciation to Councilman AB Rubin, Josh Carlson, Justin Centanni, and others for their time and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of working together. Arsement added that on March 17 the Mayor-President had instructed the Board to create a dialogue and collaborate with the Parish Council and the Mayor-President's Office. She stated that, despite this guidance, the Mayor-President removed the project a month later without consulting the Board and for reasons that are not valid. Arsement stated that there is no accessibility challenge with the property, noting that while some individuals may face difficulties, there are available routes to reach the site. She further stated that the Mayor-President's claim that the Board was deferring the project is not a valid reason.

Arsement also said that if the I-49 connector project does move forward as planned and it gets built that the current barrier will no longer exist. She would like to discuss this because Holy Rosary is less than two miles from the Main Library. She asked how would we be able to justify building two multi-million-dollar libraries that are less than two miles from each other

if there is no barrier. Arsement reiterated that she would like to have a conversation to clear up some things. Vice President Moore thanked Arsement and said that for all the reasons that were just stated he hoped that the Mayor-President would reengage the Board into this process as he believes that the Board can provide valuable insight along with the administration and staff and he believes it is the right thing to do for the community.

Board President Daniel Kelly asked the crowd to refrain from gestures and noises to ensure everyone could hear Vice President Allan Moore's presentation.

Moore presented on the library's progress with regards to finances, staffing and programming, and other measures. This presentation can be found on the Library Board of Control page of the Lafayette Public Library website, under the September 15, 2025 meeting.

Daniel Kelly commended the library's finances, programming, and staff, and stated that the library will continue to progress forward.

IV. Director's Report

UL Lafayette and South Louisiana Community College ID cards now serve as library cards. Faculty, staff, and students from these schools along with the LPSS students represent a potential reach of approximately 54,000 individuals who may utilize this service. Lafayette Public Library was the first public library (and currently the only) in Louisiana to do this with a university and/or college.

The library is in the process of expanding the digital newspaper coverage for better Louisiana coverage and some national coverage, and the library is expanding access to regional historic newspapers.

The library is in the process of implementing wireless library services.

The library is moving forward with a marketing blueprint, and a cost estimate is expected this week.

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, the East Regional Library will celebrate its tenth anniversary with an event scheduled from 11 AM to 3 PM. The Lafayette Public Library Foundation is generally funding this endeavor.

The Parish Council adopted the 2025-2026 budget.

V. Assistant Director's Report

Staff changes and vacancies were announced to the Board.

In August, the Assistant Director attended the Friends monthly meeting and the Bayouland meeting.

In July, there were a total of 76,258 patron visits and there were 139,950 total checkouts. 10,497 patrons attended 392 programs. The Bookmobile made 26 stops and had 424 patron visits. 56 deliveries were made to homebound patrons.

In August, there were a total of 66,020 patron visits and there were 133,416 total checkouts. 5,260 patrons attended 275 programs. The Bookmobile made 16 stops and had 166 patron visits. 47 deliveries were made to homebound patrons.

A full-staff meeting was held on Thursday, August 14 at the Main Library. The Assistant Director received positive feedback from staff about the keynote speaker and the sessions held.

The Friends of the Lafayette Public Library will host their annual Fall Book Sale Wednesday, September 17 through Saturday, September 20 at the Heymann Center.

VI. Facilities & Financial Update

The draft plans and specifications for the Elevator Modernization Project have been received from the architect for review. The estimated cost has been updated to 1.5M. The library will process a budget revision to add 500K to the project budget.

There are no new updates on the South Regional Library Renovation Project. The library is awaiting the manufacturing and installation of HVAC equipment.

Bids were received for the South Regional Library Reroofing Project. The bid tab was provided in Board packets. The contract award process has begun with Pellerin & Wallace, Inc. identified as the low bidder at \$541,258.00. The original estimate for the project was \$926,000.00. The bids were competitive as 9 bids were received on the project. The project is expected to begin in fall 2025.

North Regional Library Renovation plans and specifications have been approved and the project has been sent out for bid. A pre-bid meeting took place on September 4, and the bid opening is scheduled for October 9.

It was noted that the Elevator Modernization Project will not be a complete replacement; the company will retain the existing frame, but the majority of the elevator components will be replaced. It was noted that the cost exceeds the initial estimate for replacing the elevator, prompting the question of why a completely new elevator would not be installed. The estimate provided was from a contractor for budgeting purposes only and was intended as a preliminary figure. It was further clarified that the project will not cost more than purchasing a brand-new elevator. While the basic structure will remain, all other components will be replaced.

The revenues for FY24/25 (beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025) are at 15.3M and expenses are at 12.4M. Compared to the same time last year, in September of FY23/24, revenues were at 13.9M and expenses were at 10.2M.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Ella Arsement requested changes to the August 4, 2025 minutes. She asked if under VI. Approval of Minutes, subsections A. Approval of Minutes of the June 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and B. Approval of Minutes of the July 14, 2025 Special Meeting could be added to distinguish the items at a glance.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2025 Regular Board Meeting with the addition of titles for each set of minutes that were approved was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Eric Baquet.

Yeas: Kelly, Moore, Arsement, Baquet
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Judge, Padron, Bradley

The motion carried.

VIII. New Business

A. Library Book Discards

Ella Arsement requested that discard reports be provided in alphabetical order by library, with the books within each library's list also in alphabetical order.

A motion for the library to discard 5,094 books having been out of use for over a year due to the books being superseded, obsolete, unused, or otherwise unnecessary was made by Ella Arsement and seconded by Daniel Kelly.

Yeas: Kelly, Arsement, Baquet
Nays: None
Abstained: Moore
Absent: Judge, Padron, Bradley

The motion did not carry.

IX. Announcements

- A. Reminder that the next Library Board meeting will be Monday, October 20, 2025.
- B. Reminder that yearly ethics training and sexual harassment training must be completed before December 31, 2025.

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

Margaret Oelkers, Lynette Mejia, Melany Champagne, Stephanie Armbruster, Melanie Brevis, Tom Houdek, and Virginia McWhirter commented.

XI. Closing Prayer, Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary