

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY
FIRST FLOOR LARGE MEETING ROOM
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
DATE: November 21, 2024
4:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – Candace Temple, Board President 4:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Donald Luther Jr., Vice President 4:05 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL – Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director 4:05 p. m.

Candace Temple, Board President – Present
Donald Luther, Jr., Board Vice President – Present
Kathy Wascom, Board Treasurer - Present
Delores Watts – Present
Nicole Allmon-Learson – Absent
Darryl Hurst – Absent
Ronnie Pierce – Present
A quorum was present

STAFF PRESENT – Katrina Stokes, Library Director; Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director; Lori Juge, Assistant Library Director; Rhonda Pinsonat, Library Business Manager; Tanya Allison, Library Assistant Business Manager; Rosana Sotile, Assistant to the Deputy Library Director; Antoinette Y. Poland, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; Jonathan Anderson, Computer Services; Frank Hillyard, Videographer.

OTHERS PRESENT – Ms. Kallan Jackson, Eden Park Branch Library; Ms. Kimberly Reeves, Fairwood Branch Library; Brandon and Amy Foreman of Parents Magazine Foundation.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF October 17, 2024 – A motion to approve was made by Donald Luther, Jr. and seconded by Ronnie Pierce with a correction to Kathy Wascom’s name. **The motion was carried unanimously. (4:08 p.m.)**

III. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING SPAGHT SCHOLARS BRANDON AND AMY FOREMAN AND THE BATON ROUGE PARENTS’ FAMILY RESOURCE GROUP FOUNDATION – Ms. Mary Stein and Mrs. Tara Dearing 4:10 p.m.

- Mary Stein recognized Brandon and Amy Foreman as State Scholars of the Year.
- This year’s Spaght Scholar recognition was awarded to Brandon and Amy Foreman of the Parents Magazine Foundation, for their contributions to literacy and library services in the community.
- Mary Stein highlighted the endowment by the Huff Family Foundation, who task librarians to recognize community members who advocate for literacy, learning and education.
- Highlighted the Foreman’s work with Parents, Magazine; Kids Scoop News; Sock It to Me sock campaign, Home Library Project; work at the airport with the Family Learning Lab and at the Inspiration Center at Howell Park.
- Mr. Brandon Foreman discussed his anxiousness about the event; thanked Mary Stein and the library team for their support.
- Mr. Foreman discussed the company’s culture and desire to serve; the idea and challenges of giving away books; donation of resources; children’s book distribution; and impacting literacy.

IV. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR 4:21 p.m.

A. FINANCIAL REPORT – MRS. RHONDA PINSONAT

- For 2024, operating expenditures through October 31st are 69.42% of the operating budget. Through October, we should have spent no more than 83% of the budget.
- Cash collections from Property Taxes for 2024 stay ahead of those collected in 2023, as we are approximately 3.9 % ahead of the same last year.
- Rhonda Pinsonat asked for questions about financial reports.

B. SYSTEM REPORTS – MS. MARY STEIN

“Around the Parish” – Discusses slideshows and descriptions of Library programs.

- Ms. Mary Stein shared a picture of a Halloween decoration from a staff member of a skeleton loving the library.
- The staff promoted the “Sock it to Me” sock campaign on FOX, Channel 44; the campaign will run to December 6th, collecting socks for foster children and adults in crises.
- The Maker Faire had an attendance of 2,700 people and 60 makers who engaged the theme, “Making Music,” using math with exhibitors; including a robot, a chocolate chocolatier; rock piano made from rocks and fruit converted into musical instruments. Next year’s theme is “Filmmaking”
- On November 3rd, the Main Library at Goodwood hosted StoryCorps, a national nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of people.
- In January, the Library will host a launch party for Red Stick Rhythms, a digital resource platform that will allow local musicians to compete to post their stories, writings, and music.
- The library will be hosting new programming from December 4th – 5th called Campfireball, a form of improvisational storytelling about the lives and stories of the people or participants present.
- On November 8th, the River Center Branch Library hosted “Secrets to Accessing the Media” with the Baton Rouge Black Journalist Association.
- Jones Creek Branch Library hosted the 3rd Annual ‘Get Connected’ mental health fair with the National Alliance of Mental Illness.
- Greenwell Springs Regional Branch Garden Discoveries “Grown from Seeds” highlighted the seed libraries, gardening and attracting a diverse and intergenerational participation of the old and young.
- The Attic Treasures and Collectibles highlight continued with large and small items, from a 100-hundred-year-old powder compact to a vintage rocking chair.
- On November 2nd, hundreds of people attended the library’s booth for the 2024 Louisiana Book Festival; with activities for adults and children; including karaoke and interactive games.
- On November 2nd, the Library hosted new cultural programming with LSU School of Theater’s performance of “Rosita y Conchita”, a children’s play about the Day of the Dead and the Bright Star Theater’s “Cherokee Tales, a play of fun short stories about indigenous people and native society.
- On November 23rd the Library featured “Game Day,” which was a success due to its diverse participation in interactive games, board games, card games, life-sized games, etc.
- Family programs continued with Question of the Day author Jan Risher; discussions included intentional family conversations and storytelling.
- In November, Special Collections programming presented a lecture from “We are Acadian: Our Hebert Family” with local genealogist and author Elizabeth Louque Martin.
- Our holiday programming continued from December 18th – 23rd, with a performance by Lady Chops and Madame Dulcimer; with more programming for kids including “The Polar Express” showing in the plaza with hot chocolate being served. For more information go to www.ebprl.com.
- The Library will be hosting the Annual Winter Food Drive from December 1st – 31st; all items will benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. For more information, call 225-231-3740.
- GIS Day was held on November 20th at the Main Library on Goodwood; the event featured GIS technology used by local middle school students to map locations throughout Louisiana.
- The library’s new Digi Blue Bookmobile visited retirement centers, community centers, and made other community stops.
- Libraries Change Lives featured Karen Fritz who discussed how the library outreach really helped; including the convenience and accessibility of the bookmobile.
- Programming continues with the Virtual Author talk series which provides access to best-selling and international authors.
- The recent Strictly Business webinar featured continued with LSU Baseball Coach Jay Johnson.
- On December 10th, EBRPL will launch the new website. For a guided tour of the new website, come into any library location starting December 10th, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.
- The library’s genealogy research program received media coverage that emphasized the department’s success.
- The new issue of the Giving Guide is available; check out the Foundation Center at the River Center Branch where grant seekers can get help with planning processes.
- The Business Report article on the taxpayer ROA highlighted the library’s’ strong leadership and teams.
- Mary Stein asked for questions about system reports.
- Kathy Wascom mentioned the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery’s upcoming 200th anniversary and the use of the library’s Baton Rouge Room used for research and planning.
- Mary Stein confirmed the cemetery’s gala in April, coinciding with National Library Week.
- Board President Candace Temple asked for additional board and public comments. No additional comments were made.

C. OTHER REPORTS

1. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS – MS. LORI JUGE

Maintenance Report for November 2024

Carver Branch: The burglar alarm panel was replaced.

Eden Park Branch: The fire alarm panel was replaced. In addition, a belt was replaced on the interior doors.

Jones Creek Regional Branch: Motors were replaced on air handlers #5 and #6.

Main Library: A water leak has been noticed in the front parking lot near the handicapped parking spaces. Facilities staff are obtaining quotes for possible repairs.

River Center Branch: The front entrance doors have been replaced. Facilities staff are getting quotes for installing an interior set of entrance doors that will enable staff to have an added layer for securing the building and will increase energy efficiency.

Miscellaneous Improvement Projects

- Outreach
 - a. The contractor is continuing to work on addressing punch list items.
- Multibranch Project
 - a. Punch list items remain at Delmont Gardens to be completed.
- Roofing Project
 - a. There is currently nothing new to report.
- Boilers for Eden Park and Greenwell Springs Branch Libraries
 - a. Architectural Services and Facilities staff will be meeting with the engineering firm to review their design drawings. Once their design plans are accepted, we will go out to bid for the construction phase.
- Bluebonnet Branch Library Renovations
 - a. There is currently nothing new to report.
- Chiller Project
 - a. Carver, Zachary, and Central Branch Libraries all have their new chiller installed, but there is punch list items that remain on the work.
 - b. Pride Branch– Installation of the new chiller has begun this week.
 - c. The last location in this project to receive a new chiller will be the Baker Branch Library. Work should begin around mid-December at that location.

Lori Juge asked for questions regarding miscellaneous reports. There were no questions.

2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS – MS. KATRINA STOKES

- Katrina Stokes shared that the Metro Council will be voting on a slightly revised 2025 budget in the December meeting.
- The City Parish Finance Department approved the library's allotments and updated benefit numbers based on current information.
- Thanking the City Parish Human Resource Department and the Mayor's Office for expediting new hire requests before the end of the year.
- Addressing Ms. Allmon-Learson request regarding virtual in-person hybrid board meetings; currently waiting on a response from Council Administrator Ashley Beck.
- Katrina Stokes asked for questions about miscellaneous reports.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGERS – MS. KATRINA STOKES

A. INTRODUCTION OF LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGERS

1. Ms. Kallan Jackson, Manager of Eden Park Branch Library discussed her career history; starting as Teen Librarian; employed with the library since December 2019; she grew up in Baton Rouge; highlights the unique layout of the Eden Park Branch; emphasizing the library's role in providing valuable resources, including

computer access and job applications.

2. Ms. Kimberly Reeves, Manager of the Fairwood Branch Library shares her career history starting as a Children's librarian at Scotlandville, the high circulation and diversity at Fairwood; emphasized the high utilization of meeting and study rooms, the collaborations among staff.

Candace Temple, Board President thanks and commends both managers for their efforts.

Donald Luther Jr, Board Vice-President acknowledges the contributions of both managers, noting that multiple people have reached out to him offering assistance; acknowledges and commends hard work and dedication of the library staff.

Board Member Candace Temple asked for additional comments from the board under Miscellaneous Reports. No comments were made.

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – There were no reports from committees. 4:54 p.m.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – MS. LORI JUGE AND MS. MARY STEIN 4:54 p.m.

A. UPDATE ON SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – MS. LORI JUGE AND MS. MARY STEIN

South Branch Update – November 2024

For the past month, the contractor has completed the following work:

- 100% of the solid surface countertops are installed
- 100% of the carpet & resilient flooring has been installed
- 100% of the millwork has been installed
- 100% of the doors have been installed
- 90% of the door hardware has been installed
- 90% of the toilet partitions & accessories have been installed
- 100% of the exterior book drop has been installed
- 100% of the marker boards have been installed
- 100% of the landscaping has been installed with sod, mulch, and plants
- 70% of the courtyard lighting has been installed

The contractor expects to continue installation of the site fencing and exterior site furnishings through next week. They will also begin installing interior and exterior signage.

The completion date is still projected to be December 31st, though this could change.

B. UPDATE ON - SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY – MS. LORI JUGE

Scotlandville Branch Archives Library Update – November 2024

Over the last month, we received the certificate of occupancy. Furniture and shelving were moved into the Archives building, along with a portion of the collection and computers for patron use. We are excited to say we opened to the public this week and patrons are happily returning and expressing their excitement for the upcoming renovations to the Scotlandville Branch. In addition, the online surplus sale was held, and we are pleased to report that all items were sold and are being picked up through mid-December.

Architectural Services is finishing their review of the Phase 2 documentation and anticipates advertising the job by December 6. Therefore, for Phase 2 of the renovation project, we hope to have a contract awarded in January or early February.

Board President Candace Temple asked for questions from the board under unfinished business. No questions were asked under unfinished business.

Board President Candace Temple asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

VII. NEW BUSINESS There was no New Business. 5.01 p.m.

VIII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL 5:01 p.m.

Candace Temple, Board President asked for general comments from the Library Board of Control.

Candace Temple, Board President closes the last board meeting with season's greetings for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Board President Candace Temple requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Donald Luther Jr. and seconded by Delores Watts. **The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. by unanimous vote.**