

The Special Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm with following:

PRESENT: Courtney Hubbell
Lauren Bordelon
Talisha Chiquet
Ruby LeBlanc, entered at 5:50pm
Robert Rome
Archie Chaisson, Library Liaison

ABSENT: Bennie Smith
Carolyn Soley

Also present: Mrs. Laura Sanders, Library Director; Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager; Mrs. Dana Clement, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Daniel Lorraine, Councilman District 9.

Mrs. Hubbell stated after roll call, "We have a quorum and can move forward with our meeting."

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited together.

A motion to accept the LBC agenda was made by Mr. Rome, seconded by Mrs. Chiquet, and carried unanimously.

Plaques were presented to Mr. Rome and Mrs. Chiquet in appreciation of their five years of service to the Board. Photo was taken.

New Business:

1. Director gives Hurricane Ida update on our Branches: Mrs. Sanders started to give her report on the branches, and Mr. Lorraine interrupted her to speak. Mr. Lorraine, stated "Well, I want to address the Board and I'm not going to be quiet about it. I'm not your liaison anymore 'cause of a lot of politics. You don't want Lorraine against you, I can tell you that now! You don't want to make an enemy out of Lorraine." Mr. Lorraine, continued, "Ya'll can't get any help down the bayou, but ya'll sure in the hell can get in Thibodaux on cleaning out that library. Golden Meadow, I live there; I haven't seen a soul there yet. I know what's going on." Mr. Rome interjected that Mr. Lorraine would have his answers if he allowed Mrs. Sanders to give her report on the conditions of the branches. Mrs. Hubbell asked Mrs. Sanders to continue. Mrs. Sanders started with Golden Meadow, "We've been there several times, including with the remediation company that the Parish hired, and we have been told from day one that it's a total loss. The remediation people told us the building is structurally and environmentally unsafe. The second story is mostly gone with other portions of roof missing, causing rainwater to enter the building. The Branch Manager contacted those she could with the museum side, and no one could get there. We only had a very short window to get items out." Mr. Lorraine interrupted again, "The most wasteful money I've ever seen in my life was spent on that Thibodaux Branch. We have a historical site that was savaged, and I'm going to get all my figures together on that library. It's a crying shame that there was no attempt for Golden Meadow to go and clean that." Mrs. Sanders stated "We did go in there with our maintenance crew but things were literally falling from above as we were in there." Mr. Lorraine, asked "Will there be another library built there?" Mr. Rome and Mrs. Sanders both answered, "It's not our decision; it's the Parish's decision." Mr. Chaisson, stated "We hired a remediation company to take care of our buildings and followed their protocols because we don't want anyone to get sick or injured or bring a lawsuit. We're all working together." Mrs. Sanders thanked Mr. Chaisson for all the Parish's help during this difficult time. Moving on to South Lafourche's damage: "We had to reach out to the Parish for help in tarping the roof because we had up to 3 inches of water inside, along with mold and mildew. We've been working with the remediation company. South Lafourche branch is structurally sound. We contacted everyone we could to come pick up their historical items, and many people did. ServPro was hired to salvage and restore the irreplaceable Genealogy Collection, with the cost being nearly \$35,000 for a small room of books. It is not cost effective to attempt to restore a full building of items." Mrs. Sanders went on to describe minor damage at other locations, including noting that the Thibodaux Branch did not have interior damage. She reported a Book Drop being placed at South Lafourche Bank to collect checked out items, since the remediation company did not want anyone in the South Lafourche Library parking lot. She also noted that no fines will be charged for anything through October 31 and hurricane damaged/lost items are being marked in the system for future reporting. A motion was made by Mr. Rome, seconded by Mrs. Bordelon, to accept the report from the Director on the update from Hurricane Ida. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion and approval of recommending the Council accept the low bid on Lockport Entryway Modification Project: Mrs. Sanders stated, "In your Board packets you have the documents from the architect certifying the bids. They recommend we accept Foret Contracting Group for the project." Mr. Lorraine, interrupted, "You're going to spend all that money to improve

Lockport, you have a problem, you know why, 'cause Lockport was built on a landfill." Mr. Rome addressed Mr. Lorraine, "You were on the Council back then; why was it approved to build on a landfill?" Mr. Lorraine did not reply. Mrs. Sanders clarified that the building is not sinking, it's pile-supported. The sidewalks and canopy are sinking. Foret Contracting has the low bid. A motion was made by Mr. Rome, seconded by Mrs. Bordelon, to recommend the Council accept the low bid on the Lockport Entryway Modification Project for the amount of \$542,765 with Foret Contracting Group. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Smith absent, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mr. Rome yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Chiquet yes, Mrs. Soley absent, and Mrs. LeBlanc yes. The motion carried 5-0-2.

3. Discussion and approval of LPPL cost share of 2022 Employee Insurance Coverage: Mrs. Sanders went over a spreadsheet of cost share options. After some discussion a motion was made by Mr. Rome, seconded by Mrs. Bordelon, to recommend maintaining current cost share rate as the Parish Government for health insurance and to continue to paying the low-level individual rate on dental insurance for LPPL employees. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith absent, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mr. Rome yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Chiquet yes, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, and Mrs. Soley absent. The motion carried 5-0-2.
4. Discussion and approval of participating in the Parish's Assistance Program: Mrs. Sanders explained that EAP from Hidalgo Health Associates is a Parish Government program that is offered to all LPPL employees at no cost to them that offers mental health and other counseling services. The cost to the Library is minimal, \$3.25 per employee per month, and this is just a renewal. A motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Chiquet, to continue participation in the Hidalgo Health Associates EAP if the Parish renews the plan. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith absent, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mr. Rome yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Chiquet yes, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, and Mrs. Soley absent. The motion carried 5-0-2.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Rome, seconded by Mrs. Chiquet, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 6:25pm.