

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm with following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith
Courtney Hubbell
Lauren Bordelon
Talisha Chiquet
Ruby LeBlanc
Robert Rome
Carolyn Soley

ABSENT: Archie Chiasson, Library Liaison

Also present in the meeting room: Mrs. Laura Sanders, Director; Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operation Manager; and Mrs. Dana Clement, Administrative Assistant, for the Lafourche Parish Public Library.

Ms. Smith 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 Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Bordelon, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Regular meeting was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public wishing to address the Board: N/A

Finance Report:

Mrs. Lucas reported LPPL has a fund balance of \$8.7M, out of which the rest of the years' bills will be paid. LPPL will not have additional funding until early next year when 2021 ad valorem taxes are collected. Flood insurance renewals for all of the library buildings have been paid. Parish Council votes tomorrow night on LPPL 2021 Budget amendments. Project updates: The Thibodaux Addition- as of today, pay outs are at \$3,444,783. There are still punch list items with Betco and various furnishing and signage loose ends for the remodeled areas. The Lockport Entryway Project-as of today, has a payout of \$18,037. Low bid acceptance is expected to be on the September Board agenda and then on an October Council agenda for official approval. With no other discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Chiquet, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the library system. Mrs. Sanders explained to the Board the scope of the work for Lockport Entryway Project-the canopy will be pile-supported and the sidewalks will be hinged slabs and should last 10-15 years before additional maintenance is needed. There is no permanent fix for the fact that the building was built on insufficiently compacted soil. Thibodaux Project: Duplantis Design is generously absorbing the \$40K cost to remediate the new stairwell that floods on 5th Street. "We're very appreciative to Duplantis for fixing the issues and working with us through all this." There is no party at fault, just unfortunate drainage circumstances in this part of the City. South Lafourche Roof: the leak is coming from a rusted-out a/c unit that will be replaced at a low quote of \$8,864. The roof curb will be inspected and sealed as needed underneath the unit during the change out. Golden Meadow has had on-going issues with repeat roof leaks addressed by maintenance staff. Repeat GM a/c issues and sewer issues will be addressed by the appropriate vendors. LPPL partners with Second Harvest to feed the community, and Mr. Terry Arabie, Council District 6 reached out to get the Gheens Branch added to the program. Second Harvest agreed this time since the meals are frozen; otherwise Gheens does not qualify since it has no kitchen. The program has been successful at all branches. Out and About in Lafourche is a new LPPL program and has been a huge hit, with staff members spotlighting areas in our parish with videos on Facebook. Summer Reading is ending and has been a success as families start to return for in-branch programming. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Ms. Soley, to accept the Director's Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, and seconded by Mr. Rome, to enter into Executive Session (LA. R.S. 42:17 (A) (1) at 6:12pm to review the Annual Director Evaluation, the motion carried unanimously.

The room was cleared for the Board to discuss the Annual Director Evaluation.

A short time later, attendees were invited to rejoin the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mr. Rome, to end Executive Session and reconvene the meeting at 6:16pm, the motion carried to unanimously.

New Business:

1. Approval of Director's Evaluation Results:

A motion was made by Ms. Soley, seconded by Mrs. Bordelon, to approve the Director's Evaluation results. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion of restored millage and impact on operating expenditures: A lengthy discussion took place with the Board reviewing the recent feasibility study, library usage statistics from several years, and the current budget. The Board agreed with Mrs. Sanders recommendation to leave the operational hours of the library with no changes at this time as well as leaving full-time staff employees at 36 hours. There are overall concerns that additional funding cuts could result in additional reductions to service hours and/or closing some branches altogether. LPPL is maintaining 10 aging building and needs to maintain current funding to keep those open. It was mentioned that Library Administration and the Library Board have been good stewards by maintaining Parish-owned buildings and continuing to provide programs and services for the community despite significant funding cuts. Mrs. Sanders reminded the Board that to maintain buildings and current services we are approximately a \$6.5M system. With our reduced ad valorem receipts at the end of the year, the library expects, per Parish Finance, to have \$11M in LPPL funding. This is due to governmental accounting. Our 2021 collections will not be received until 2022, but will be added back to 2021. If the library has \$11M, projected by parish finances and our budget is around \$6.5M, we will have approximately \$4.5M in "reserve". This is less than 1-year operating cost, which is recommended as best practice by the State Library and Library Bylaws. These amounts are speculative until actual collections have occurred and then added back to 2021.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 6:47pm.