

ST. CHARLES PARISH LIBRARY

Board of Control Meeting

July 15, 2014

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Council Chambers at the Courthouse in Hahnville.

Members present: Robert Faucheux, Celeste Uzee, Ralph DeRoche and Terrell Wilson

Members absent: Tammy Windmann

Staff present: Leann Benedict, Jessica Delgado and Lauren Pitz

Others: Brandt Dufrene and Terry Grier Sr.

Mr. Faucheux called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silent prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Faucheux asked for approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting. Mrs. Uzee moved that the minutes be approved as mailed. Mr. DeRoche seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The attendance report for Board members was completed.

The next agenda item was Public Comment. Mr. Brandt Dufrene, Chairman, President and CEO of First National Bank USA spoke to the board to present a proposal for a building in Norco that could potentially be used as a library. The property is located at 590 Apple Street and is currently a branch of the First National Bank USA. The building is 2,237 square feet and is adjacent to the post office in Norco. According to Mr. Dufrene there is enough space on the property that the building could be added on to. When asked about the cost of the building Mr. Dufrene indicated that it was negotiable and would be under \$300,000.

The next agenda item was the Librarian's Report. Mrs. Benedict reported that the library staff has been very busy with the summer reading programs. A total of 769 children, 545 tweens and teens and 487 adults have signed up for the summer reading programs so far. In comparison to 2013, summer reading sign-ups have increased by almost 13%. The library held a total of 142 programs during the month of June with 5,298 patrons attending. Attendance at programs is 44% higher than it was last June despite the fact that there have been less programs. Some program highlights include our two Book Buzz events for adults which brought in 46 people at the East Regional Library and 42 people at the West Regional Library. Our first ever after-hours event for adults was held at the West Regional Library on June 13th and also had a great turn-out of approximately 40 people. Saturday, July 19th, will be our annual teen lock-in. The theme this year is Camp Half-Blood and is based on Rick Riordan's popular "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" book series. We have already reached our maximum number of registrations with 80

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tweens/teens (ages 12-17) signed up for this event. The library has had a couple of staffing changes in the past two months. Destani Clement was promoted from page to part-time library assistant at the West Regional Library. The library hired Sarah Anderson as a part-time library assistant at the West Regional Library, Angelica Dauenhauer as a page at the West Regional Library and Sabra Wilson as a part-time planetarium assistant. We welcome them to our team.

The next agenda item was Communications. There was one item of communication which was a letter from the Parish Council regarding the adoption of Ordinance 14-6-3 which increased the number of library board members from 5 to 7 with one member to represent each district.

The first item of old business taken up was the status of the Paradis Branch. Mr. Terry Grier, Sr. was present at the meeting to discuss the results of the mold testing that he was hired by the library to do at the Paradis Branch. Mr. Grier explained the process that he used for testing and indicated that all areas of the building had lower levels of mold than found outside of the building. He did indicate that while the children's activity room was significantly lower in mold levels than the outside air, and therefore considered to be safe, that he did find higher levels in that room than in the rest of the building. He has made recommendations to have the children's activity room cleaned. He informed the board that he can facilitate obtaining bids and overseeing the clean-up if the library desires for him to do so. He estimates that the cost of the cleaning would be approximately \$2500.00 and it would be \$1500.00 for him to facilitate the cleaning and to re-test the building after the cleaning to ensure that the levels in the children's activity room were at a lower level that was comparable to the rest of the building. He has also recommended that the library add some type of dehumidification to the air handler. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that she has asked Kenny Breaux, the Facilities Manager for the library, to investigate pricing for a dehumidifier. Mrs. Benedict will inform the board of the price once we have obtained that information.

The next item of business was the West Regional renovation and the Norco Branch Library. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that the old Capitol One building in Norco is currently for sale. Mrs. Benedict expressed concern that if the library moves forward with the West renovation plans as they currently stand then it is very unlikely that the library would have funds available for anything to be done to improve the Norco Branch in the near future. Mrs. Benedict's recommendation is to scale back the West renovation project in order to be able to improve both the West Regional Library and also have funds available to improve the Norco Branch. The library board members present agreed that this was a good idea. Mrs. Benedict will further investigate what properties are available in the Norco area and will investigate how the West Regional renovation project can be scaled back and will report this information back to the board.

The first item of new business was the proposed amendment to the by-laws. Mrs. Uzee made a motion to accept the changes as proposed. Mr. DeRoche seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The final agenda item was Public Comment. There were no requests for public comment.

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There being no further business, Mr. Faucheux called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRoche moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Uzee seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Robert Faucheux, President
St. Charles Parish Library Board

Leann Benedict, Secretary
St. Charles Parish Library Board