

ST. CHARLES PARISH LIBRARY

Board of Control Meeting

May 19, 2015

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in Council Chambers at the Courthouse in Hahnville.

Members present: Robert Faucheux, Celeste Uzee, Larry LaBorde, Tammy Windmann and Terrell Wilson

Members absent: Ralph DeRoche, Steve Wilson and Glenn Gros

Staff present: Leann Benedict, Lauren Pitz, Amy Boling, Vicki Nesting and Tammy Chiasson.

Others: None

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 March 17, 2015 meeting. Mrs. Uzee moved that the minutes be approved as mailed. Mr. LaBorde seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all in favor.

The attendance report for board members was completed.

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

The next agenda item was the Librarian's Report. Mrs. Benedict gave the following report:

On Saturday, April 18th, over 200 people attended the Spring Showcase at the East Regional Library in celebration of National Library Week. Attendees were able to make, create, and see what the St. Charles Parish Library has to offer! We featured edible books, robotics, crafts, readers' advisory, and many of our library resources. Thank you to the Friends of the St. Charles Library, Dow Chemical, and all of the robotics volunteers for making this event such a success. The parish did a video highlighting the showcase on "Around the Parish". I sent you all a link to the video yesterday.

On April 24th we were closed for All Staff Day Training. Staff participated in outreach training where they learned about the value of outreach and some standard best practices to use at outreach events. They also participated in training on a new module in our automation system and safety training where they discussed how to handle emergency situations at work. This safety training really came in handy the following Monday when we had numerous tornado warnings.

We are gearing up for our Summer Reading Programs, which start June 1st and will run through July 31st. We have lots of programs planned for all ages. I have given you each a summer reading

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calendar which shows all of the programs for all ages for June and July. This is also the first year that patrons will be able to sign up and participate online.

The St. Charles Parish Library will host two events at the beginning of June to help adults “Escape the Ordinary” this summer.

- Sharon Parker of Random House Publishers will be back on June 3rd with two Book Buzz events, where she will highlight forthcoming books and give readers the inside scoop on future bestsellers. Book samplers and “Keep Calm and Read On” canvas bags will be available for all attendees.
- Our annual after-hours event for adults, After Hours @ the Library, will be held at the West Regional Library on Friday, June 5th.

The theme of this year’s after-hours event is “Game Night.” A variety of board games will be available for free play. Attendees will also get the chance to interact with some of the library’s collection of robots and use the Oculus Rift, a virtual reality headset that lets users step inside virtual worlds and look around just as they would in real life.

In addition to the games, a preliminary plan for the renovation of the West Regional Library will be on display. A photo area and refreshments will also be available.

The East Regional Library Book Discussion Group was selected by author John Searles for his “50 Book Groups in 50 States” Skype tour. He will be joining the group via Skype on June 17 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. to discuss his recent book, *Help for the Haunted*. Searles is a former editor for *Cosmopolitan Magazine* and author of three books. The public is welcome to attend.

For our kids, where “Every Hero Has a Story”, and our tweens and teens whose theme is “Unmask”, we will have numerous activities and programs throughout the summer including music, crafts, storytimes, climbing wall, Legos, games, movies and more.

One new thing this year is that the library will be hosting two “Ready Set Robotics” Mini Camps. Amy Boling, our Teen Services Librarian, has partnered with the Destrehan High School Wildcats robotics team, who went to the world championships in St. Louis this year and made it to the semi-finals, and they will be helping us and leading these two camps. Both of the camps filled up within the first 2 weeks of registration. There are 40 registered for the East Regional Camp, which will be held the week of June 8th, and 27 registered for the West Regional camp, which will be held the week of June 22nd. These camps were made possible through a DOW promise grant and we are very grateful to DOW for their support. They are planning on providing some employees and retirees to help as volunteers at the camp. We also want to thank Brian Young, the DHS Wildcat Robotics coach, and his team for helping to make these camps a reality.

In staffing news, we have filled the vacancies at the East Regional Library that I mentioned at our last meeting. Judy Ruiz and Veronica Veazey have joined our team as part-time Circulation Assistants and Ashley Waldrop is the new Page. We are currently interviewing for a part-time circulation assistant position at Paradis. Children’s Librarian, Marci Saucier, will be retiring effective June 1st. Marci has been with the St. Charles Parish Library for 13 years and we are sad to see her go but want to wish her well on her well-deserved retirement.

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The next agenda item was Communications. There were no communications to be taken up.

The first item of old business taken up was the status of the proposed purchase of the First National Bank USA property in Norco. Mr. Faucheux asked Mrs. Benedict to give the board an update. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that the Parish Council had passed the ordinance approving the purchase of the property. The bank now has to obtain permission from its regulatory agency to close the bank and they will then need to give 90-days' notice to their customers before they can close. We anticipate that it will be at least 3 months before we can go to Act of Sale on the property.

The next item of old business was the West Regional renovation status. Mr. Faucheux asked Mrs. Benedict to give the board an update. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that she had included a copy of the proposed renovation plans as they stand at this point with the agenda. These are not the final plans but we are close to having them finalized. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that she welcomed any feedback they might have regarding the plans and that she hopes to have Maureen Arndt, the design consultant for the project, in attendance at the next library board meeting in July to present the renovation plans for their approval.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. There was no new business to be taken up.

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

There being no further business, Mr. Faucheux called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. LaBorde 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