

St. Charles Parish Library

Board of Control Meeting

July 9, 2024 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control was held at 6:00pm, Tuesday, July 9, 2024 in Council Chambers at the Courthouse in Hahnville.

Members Present: Beverly DeLaune, Randy Matherne, Annie Harmon, Sarah Sacra, Robin Robicheaux, and Holly Fonseca

Members Absent: Stephanie Mire and Charlene Alexander-Armstrong

Staff Present: Leann Benedict, Amy Duke, and Lauren Pitz

Others: Reanda Fields-Pierre

Mrs. DeLaune called the meeting to order and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Mrs. DeLaune asked for approval of the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting. Mr. Matherne moved that the minutes be approved as e-mailed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Harmon and passed unanimously.

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:

Our Summer Reading Program, with the theme of *Adventure Begins at Your Library*, is well underway. As of today, 2,301 patrons have signed up for the reading challenge and 1,201 patrons have already completed the program, with a total of 1,408,494 minutes read so far. Our community reading goal this year is to reach 2,750,000 minutes and we are halfway there, so we encourage our patrons of all ages to keep reading and don't forget to log your minutes. We also want to remind everyone that all reading counts, whether you are reading books with or to your children; reading on your own for fun, school, or work; and regardless of whether it is books, magazines, comic books, the back of a cereal box, and even listening to an audiobook... it all counts!

Summer reading programming is going great! The branches have been busy hosting programs for all ages. During the month of June, we have held about 145 programs with over 4000 attendees. In addition to our kick-off events held during the first week in June,

other programs have included movie nights, Pokemon Bingo, Snacking Around the World, Ice Cream Flower Pots, Fandom Button Making, Chair Yoga, Wine Glass Painting, Bean Bag Baseball, Parachute Games, and more. Special guest performances from Crescent Circus, Comedian Doug Berky, The TMM Project Dance Workshop, Video Game Truck, and The Story Ship have been a big hit with our patrons. Our teens enjoyed our Percy-Jackson themed Camp Half Blood lock-in, held at the East Regional Library on June 15th and our adult patrons at the St. Rose Branch enjoyed a special Bridgerton-inspired afternoon tea on June 29th. We still have lots of opportunities for patrons to enjoy free programs through the end of July with programs such as our Read Around the World Storytimes, The Dinosaur Experience, movies, crafts, and so much more. Patrons can find all the details in our summer reading event guide, on our website, or at their local branch.

The new tiered library card system for minors was rolled out in May and is going well. We currently have 45 patrons who have opted for a Minor 3 card, which is the most restrictive, and 46 who have opted for a Minor 2 card. Parents may change their child's card level at any time, but they do need to go into a branch to sign a new form anytime the card level is changed. Minor 1 and 2 cards will automatically transfer to an adult card when the minor turns 18. Patrons with a Minor 3 card will need to go into the library to obtain a new card when they turn 18.

On June 27th I participated in a panel discussion for the River Parishes Tourism Commission at their Marketing Partner Quarterly Luncheon Meeting. The panel also included library directors from St. John and St. James Parish Libraries and was moderated by the director of the Rapides Parish Library who is also the Public Section Chair for the Louisiana Library Association. *Pages to Places: Exploring the Intersection of Libraries and Tourism* was the theme for the panel, and we were given the opportunity to discuss ways in which our public libraries support tourism in the area. It was a wonderful opportunity to share what we are doing here in St. Charles Parish while also gaining some new ideas and potential partners for future programs and services.

In staffing news, Lesley Campbell and Cy Jones attended the annual ALA Conference in San Diego last week. They both enjoyed having the opportunity to attend the many seminars offered and meet with vendors. Candice LaRosee was promoted from a part-time to full-time Circulation Assistant with an emphasis on children's services at the East Regional Library. We welcomed four new part-timers to our team this week. Annemarie Picolo, Logan Lanoux, and Charlene Heikamp will be part-time Circulation Assistants at the East Regional Library and Shelby Croal will be a part-time Bookmobile Assistant. We are in the process of hiring a full-time maintenance assistant and once that is done all current vacancies should be filled.

The next agenda item was Communications. There were no communications.

The first item of unfinished business was the Hahnville Branch Library Project. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that a kick-off meeting was held with the architects at the beginning of June.

Since then, the library staff have been completing surveys to provide information about what is needed in the building to help the architects create the building program.

The next item of unfinished business was Hurricane Ida Recovery Update. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that the library is still waiting for some punch list items to be completed at the West Regional Library. There is some paint touchups that need to be completed and there are problems with the flooring in the meeting room and the contractor is waiting for the flooring subcontractor to come and look at it to determine a resolution. The Library is also still waiting on insurance reimbursements for the building repairs that have been completed.

The only item of new business was to discuss the request made by Mrs. Reanda Fields-Pierre at the May meeting. At that meeting, Mrs. Fields-Pierre requested that the Library Board consider writing a letter of no objection to Planning & Zoning for a waiver that would allow her business, located near the West Regional Library, to sell alcoholic beverages. Mrs. Reanda Fields-Pierre was present and was asked to come to the podium to answer some questions from the board. After some discussion, Mr. Matherne made a motion to vote on the waiver. The motion failed for lack of a second. Mrs. DeLaune motioned to table the discussion until the next meeting of the library board. Mrs. Harmon seconded the motion. The motion passed with four yeas (DeLaune, Harmon, Robicheaux, and Sacra) and one nay (Matherne). The item will be tabled until the next meeting of the library board which is scheduled for September 17th at 6:00pm.

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

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

APPROVED:

Beverly DeLaune, President
St. Charles Parish Library Board

Leann Benedict, Secretary
St. Charles Parish Library Board