

St. Charles Parish Library

Board of Control Meeting

July 19, 2022 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control was held at 6:00pm, Tuesday, July 19, 2022 in Council Chambers at the Courthouse in Hahnville.

Members Present: Celeste Uzee, Beverly DeLaune, Tammy Windmann, Annie Harmon, Randy Matherne, and Holly Fonseca

Members Absent: Charlene Alexander-Armstrong and Robin Robicheaux

Staff Present: Leann Benedict

Others: None

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

Mrs. Uzee asked for approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting. Mrs. DeLaune moved that the minutes be approved as e-mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matherne 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:

May was Need to Feed Month and the library collected 189 food items from patrons that were then donated to the local Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry in Destrehan.

Our annual Summer Reading Program is going very well. After two years of doing mostly virtual programs, we are excited to be welcoming patrons back to our libraries for in-person programs, and I am happy to say that the summer has been quite successful so far. In the month of June, we held 140 programs with 3443 patrons in attendance.

Programs during the month of June included Didgeridoo Down Under, Komenka Dances of the World, Magician David LeBouef, Video Game Truck, Art Squad, Movie Night, Garden Rock Painting, Lego Club, Storytimes, Nerd Night, Mason Jar String Art, and many more. July has also been filled with fun programs and we are looking forward to finishing our summer events over the next week and a half.

As of June 30th, a total of 1,933 patrons have signed up for the summer reading challenge. At the end of June, our readers had logged 984,011 reading minutes and 347 patrons had already completed the program. There is still time for patrons to sign up for the program. Go to www.myscpl.org/summer for more information.

Patrons who have completed the program can pick up their completion prizes at any branch. Completion prizes for children and teens is a bubble pop game and for adults is an insulated bag. Patrons can also still pick up signup prizes and Jaw-Some Reader yard signs if they have not yet done so. The signup prize for children is a beach ball, for teens is a fidget pen, and for adults is a koozie.

The first session of the *Who Gets to Vote? Conversations on Voting Rights in America* reading and discussion series, sponsored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) was held on June 23rd with 20 in attendance. There will be three more sessions, one each month through the month of September. Registration is full for each of these, but patrons can join a waiting list.

One challenge we have had over the past month is that the service we used to accept credit card payments mysteriously stopped working so we have been unable to accept credit card payments. Our computer services team is working on a resolution for this but for now, we are only able to accept cash and check payments.

At the council meeting last night, the parish council approved the annual millage ordinance. All millage rates were kept the same as last year, which for the library is 4.53 mills.

In staffing news, Patricia Brown joined our team as a full-time custodian at the East Regional Library in June.

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

The first item of unfinished business taken up was the status of the Norco Branch status. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that the Parish Attorney is in the process of getting the Parish President to sign off on the release agreement. Once that is done, we are hoping to be able to get the signed change order from the contractor and the bond company and will then be able to put the ordinance through to the parish council for approval.

The next item of unfinished business was the Hahnville Branch Library project and the community engagement proposal. Mrs. Benedict gave a summary of the proposal included in the board documents that Maureen Arndt from 720 Design submitted. This proposal included preparing materials for and hosting two open houses and creating an online survey. After some discussion, the board decided not to move forward with an external vendor for this project. The board asked Mrs. Benedict to work with her administrative team to develop and produce an online survey to obtain input from the community about what they would like to see in a new Hahnville Branch. Some additional discussion followed.

The next item of unfinished business was Hurricane Ida Recovery Update. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that repairs at the four smaller branches are finished. The library is working with the parish and Murray Architects on the West Regional repairs. The architectural plans are almost finished, and that project will go out to bid soon. Regarding the Louisiana Room content, the most recent update was received in mid-June. Everything is set to complete phase one services by the end of June, which includes freezer stabilization and vacuum-freeze drying. The next phase will be a gamma irradiation process. This is set for end of June and typically takes a week to ten days to complete. From there they will then move on to the final phase of cleaning and reboxing - this is a labor-intensive process, so it does take a bit of time to get through. Space is being made at the Hahnville Branch for when the collection is returned. Some repairs on the fence at the East Regional Library have begun but the library is still waiting for repairs to begin on the roof at that location.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. There was no new business.

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

There being no further business, Mrs. DeLaune moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Harmon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Celeste Uzee, President
St. Charles Parish Library Board

Leann Benedict, Secretary
St. Charles Parish Library Board