

ST. CHARLES PARISH LIBRARY

Board of Control Meeting

July 17, 2018

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, July 17, 2018, in Council Chambers at the courthouse in Hahnville.

Members present: Celeste Uzee, Tammy Windmann, Glenn Gros, Beverly DeLaune, Lori Lyons, and Terrell Wilson.

Members absent: Deborah Raziano and Charlene Alexander-Armstrong

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

Others: None

Mrs. Uzee called the meeting to order and asked all to rise for a moment of silence and asked Mrs. Windmann to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Uzee asked for approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting. Mr. Gros moved that the minutes be approved as mailed and Mrs. DeLaune seconded the motion. The motion 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:

I will start off with some exciting news that we just learned today. The library has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Entergy Charitable Foundation for our 2018 Summer Reading Program. These funds will help pay for the printing and mailing of the event guides that were mailed out at the beginning of the summer, the completion prizes and some of our performers. This is the 3rd year that Entergy Waterford 3 has partnered with our library for the Summer Reading Program and we are very grateful for their continued support. Special thanks to Lauren Pitz, our Public Relations and Adult Programming Librarian, who is responsible for writing the grant proposal for this each year!

All branches have been very busy this summer! The 8th annual teen lock-in was held at the East Regional Library on June 8th. Harry Potter was the theme and 76 young wizards and muggles ages 12-17 had a fun-filled night at the library. This year the lock-in ended at midnight and, while some of our kids were disappointed about not getting to stay all

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night in the library, a good time was still had by all and our staff were not quite as exhausted the following week!

The library hosted our first Comic-Con on July 7th at the East Regional Library. 233 patrons attended the 3-hour event, which included a presentation and discussion about the "Horrible Stereotypes, Censorship, and Diversity in Comics"; a panel discussion about fanfiction, cosplay and improv; an Artists Alley where several local comic artists, authors, and creators featured their art work and items; crafts for children; board game demos; comic book giveaways; and a cosplay fashion show. Everyone enjoyed seeing featured guests in full costume walking around the library (Batman & Robin, Superman, and Stormtroopers - just to name a few). Many thanks to Taylor Sardegna who came up with the idea to hold a Comic-Con and did the groundwork to make it happen. East staff were eager to help and did a great job to make the program a success. Participants as well as staff look forward to the 2019 Comic-Con event!

The NOVAC Film Camp held at the West Regional Library from July 9-13 went great! NOVAC is the New Orleans Video Access Center. They train and place adults in the film industry and they have an educational arm that provides week-long workshops for teens. Twelve teens worked together to learn how to scout locations, pitch ideas, cast characters, create storyboards, film and edit a music video. NOVAC will do the final editing and we will have a parent screening in a few weeks. This is our first time working with NOVAC (they said our group was one of the best they'd had), and we are hoping to use them again for future workshops.

The Hahnville Community Garden has been a big hit with the community and patrons have been very helpful in maintaining the garden. Even some of our little helpers have come out to dig in the garden and discover some wonderful hidden treasures.

The West Regional Library staff is excited to now be doing outreach to the Boutte Community Center. They visited them in June and had 32 campers paint dinosaurs and boxes. We love being able to work with all the community centers the parish and are looking forward to seeing this new outreach opportunity grow!

We will host a Local Authors Showcase on Saturday, July 28 from 10am to 1pm at the East Regional Library. Over 20 local authors who have published books for children, teens, and adults in a variety of genres will be set up to talk about their work. We invite you all to come out and join us that day and help support our local authors!

As you know, each summer our patrons of all ages are challenged to read at least 360 minutes over the summer. Once they complete their 360 minutes, they receive a completion prize and are also entered in the drawing for one of our grand prizes, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. To date, we have 2006 patrons signed up for the program. 300 adults, 69 teens, and 535 children, for a total of 904 patrons, have already completed the program. With just two weeks left of the challenge, we encourage all our patrons to keep reading and recording those minutes and to come and visit their local

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branch when they are done to pick up their prize. It's also not too late to sign up. Just go to our website at myscpl.org/summer!

Just as a reminder, our completion prizes this year include a special reading trophy for our kids, a fidget cube for our teens, and a very cool insulated tote for our adults. Patrons will also be entered in our grand prize drawing.

In June, all the professional librarians, a few of the library staff, and two of our board members attended the American Library Association's annual conference, which was held in New Orleans this year. Staff enjoyed attending sessions and hearing special guest speakers including Michelle Obama, Sally Field, Emilio Estevez, and Viola Davis; meeting authors and learning about new titles that will be coming out soon; visiting the exhibit hall; and attending a wide variety of educational programs.

In staffing news, Ashley Gray joined our team as a part-time planetarium assistant and Andrew Seymour is our new page at the West Regional Library. It is with mixed emotion that I share with you that Bookmobile Supervisor Audrey Breaux, known as Pie to our staff and patrons, will be retiring from the library on July 31st after 22.5 years of service. Pie began working at the library as a part-time library assistant on December 4, 1995 and began working full-time on the bookmobile in June of 1998. She has provided outstanding service to our bookmobile patrons for over 20 years and is truly going to be missed by our staff and our patrons. We wish her all the best on her well-deserved retirement! Mrs. Breaux will be recognized at the parish council meeting on Monday, July 23rd.

With Pie's retirement, we have done some restructuring and the bookmobile will be moved under the supervision of the West Regional Circulation Supervisor. As a result, Judy Ruiz has been promoted to full-time Bookmobile Assistant and begins her training on the bookmobile this week. Judy has been with the library since 2015 and has been working as a part-time circulation assistant at St. Rose for the past 2 ½ years. We are excited to have her joining Sandy Pearce, who has worked full-time on the bookmobile for almost 5 years. We know the two of them will continue to provide excellent service to all our bookmobile patrons.

The last item is to let you know that the parish council voted on the ordinance to approve millage rates at their July 9th meeting and they renewed the library millage rate at 4.35 mills. Thank you to Assistant Director Vicki Nesting for attending the council meeting on my behalf as I was out of town and unable to attend.

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

The first item of unfinished business taken up was the West Regional renovation status. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that this project is complete. The final payment has been made and the last roof leak that we had was repaired. Councilman Wilson asked about the warranty period. Mrs. Benedict explained that, to her understanding, the contractor warranty which is one year

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from substantial completion, has passed. However, there are manufacturer warranties in place on items such as the roof, which has a 30-year warranty on it.

The next item of unfinished business was the status of the Norco Branch project. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that there is visible progress being made. The new slab has been poured and walls are starting to go up. There is one item that could be a potential change order that Mrs. Benedict informed the board about. The meeting room space is not as large as we had hoped it would be. There is an outdoor covered porch area off the meeting room that could potentially be closed in to become part of the meeting room. Mrs. Benedict has asked the architect to give us an estimate of what additional cost there would be to make this change and will keep the board informed about this. Mrs. Uzee asked about the schedule and Mrs. Benedict said that the contractor is still saying that they expect to complete the project on schedule.

The next item of unfinished business was discussion of possible future plans for the Hahnville Branch. Mrs. Uzee explained that this is not a specific action item but that it is being kept on the agenda as a discussion item. She encouraged the citizens of Hahnville who are interested and have an opinion about the library to contact Mrs. Benedict or one of the board members to share their thoughts with us. A discussion followed.

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

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

There being no further business, Mrs. Uzee called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Windmann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Lyons 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