

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of Meeting

January 16, 2025

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Jan Canterbury. Board members Sandra Dupree, Bill Jones, Milton Melton, Amanda Norris, Stephanie Smith, Eric McCulloch, and Richard Pyles were present. Absent from the meeting was Deborah Gilliam. Library Director Jeremy Bolom was also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

Director Bolom took a few moments to introduce five staff members from three different departments to the Board.

Ms. Dupree made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. McCulloch seconded the motion. All yes, motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Mrs. Norris made the motion to approve the minutes for the December 19, 2024, meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Chair Canterbury turned the task of Board officer elections to Director Bolom, who promptly called for nominations for Chair for 2025. Mr. Pyles nominated Jan Canterbury. Ms. Dupree seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. Mr. Melton called to close nominations. All present members voted yes. Jan Canterbury was elected as Chair for 2025. This is her second term as chair.

Director Bolom called for nominations for Vice-Chair for 2025. Mr. Jones nominated Sandra Dupree. Mr. Pyles seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. Mr. Melton called to close nominations. All present members voted yes. Sandra Dupree was elected Vice-Chair for 2025. This is her second consecutive term in this position.

Director Bolom called for nominations for the Board's Friends of the Library Liaison. Although not present, it was noted that Deborah Gilliam has been an excellent liaison since her appointment last year. Ms. Dupree made a motion to keep Deborah Gilliam as Friends liaison. Mr. Jones seconded the nomination. Mr. Melton called to close nominations. All present members voted yes. Deborah Gilliam was elected to remain Friends of the Library Liaison for her second time through 2025.

Mrs. Canterbury called for discussion or a motion to set the meeting dates for 2025. After some discussion about a time change, Ms. Dupree made a motion to keep the meetings on current schedule as the third Thursday of the month at 5pm. Mr. Pyles seconded. All yes. Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed members of all special committees.

Mr. Jones made a motion to place Mr. Melton, Mr. Pyles, Ms. Gilliam, and himself on the Events Center Committee. Mrs. Canterbury seconded. All yes. Motion Carried.

The Compensation Planning Committee was sunset on February 15, 2024.

With updates made to the bylaws in late 2023, Mr. Jones made a motion to sunset the bylaws committee. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

After discussion, Amanda Norris and Stephanie Smith both expressed interest on joining the Legislative committee. Mr. Jones made a motion to add both to the committee with current members Mrs. Canterbury, Mr. McCulloch, Ms. Dupree, the Library Director, and himself on the Legislative Committee. Mr. McCulloch seconded. All yes. Motion Carried.

There was no correspondence and communication.

During his financial report, Director Bolom pointed out there should be one more report for 2024 as some bills for services done during that year are still being paid. There were no questions about the budget.

He then presented the statistics for 2024. Over the year, electronic circulations increased as physical circulations and patron visits decreased. Outreach number for December include the Ruston Christmas parade. He pointed out that the difference between 2024 and 2023 numbers was given below the total for each statistic. In most cases, these numbers increased. Wi-Fi stats remain skewed due to missing stats and a change in the network this year, which continues to cause patron connectivity issues. The Board requested an update on how this problem can be resolved and asked Director Bolom to invite GIS representatives to next month's meeting.

In his report, Bolom summarized his professional activities. He also commented on preparations for the upcoming Readers Club Gala in February and the Geektogether in March. With concern to the building enhancement projects approved by the board in 2024, he mentioned that, although priorities were set for the lighting and flooring, he has been advised by the Jury to begin with security cameras since the other two projects will be grouped together. Additionally, two part-time positions are currently open at the Library, and programming remains on schedule, with a special calendar forthcoming for a Black History Month celebration at LPL.

With no further discussions, Ms. Dupree made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McCulloch seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.