

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of Meeting

April 17, 2025

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm by Chair Jan Canterbury. Board members Sandra Dupree, Bill Jones, Milton Melton, Amanda Norris, Stephanie Smith, Richard Pyles, and Deborah Gilliam were present. Absent from the meeting was Eric McCullouch. Library Director Jeremy Bolom was also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

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

There were no public comments.

Mrs. Norris made the motion to approve the minutes for the March 19, 2025 meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Canterbury called for information and discussion on the need to replace the Library's digital signs. Director Bolom made the presentation in the absence of Police Jury Purchasing Officer, Jeri Webb. He reviewed the previous quote from Rapid Signs for \$48,000. He then gave a quote from Shreveport Neon Sign for \$49,220 and another from Go Media LLC for \$59,814.67. It was the recommendation of Mrs. Webb to accept the quote from Rapid Signs as quickly as possible to secure the price. Ms. Dupree noted that she was glad that Rapid Signs was also a Lincoln Parish business, since she believes the Library should always consider that if possible. Mr. Jones made a motion accept the Rapid Signs quote. Mr. Melton seconded. All yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Jones reported for the Legislative Committee which conducted a Library tour for Representative Rashid Young on Friday, March 28th. He thanked Ms. Dupree for making that contact for the committee. He also noted that there were no library-related bills filed yet this legislative session.

Mr. Jones had nothing new to report for the Events Center Committee.

Ms. Gilliam had nothing new to report on Friends of the Library activity.

Each board member who attended the annual Louisiana Library Association conference in Baton Rouge on March 20-22, 2025 gave a brief report on their experience.

- Ms. Smith stated there was a lot of informational sessions for board members this year. She summarized the preconference on a book banning case in Texas, which everyone from LPL attended, and how the decision of the 5th Circuit Court could impact Louisiana law. She also voiced concern on the on the defunding of IMLS and how that could affect the State Library of Louisiana.

- Mrs. Norris echoed what Ms. Smith said, adding information she heard at an information session from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.
- Ms. Dupree agreed with the previous two reports, emphasizing the key takeaway that board members should be more attentive to Police Jury meetings, with at least one member attending each month. Mr. Jones applauded her comment and asked if the Board could attend the May meeting and have time to give the 2024 statistics. Mr. Melton said he would make sure that would happen.
- Mr. Bolom added to the conference summary by noting that there were several sessions on artificial intelligence and he was only able to get a seat in one session, where the speaker did not show. He was also busy with running the conference's silent auction, and he enjoyed presenting trivia the last night of conference.

There was no correspondence.

During his financial report, Director Bolom noted that the Events Center income is on track to hopefully exceed its projected income for the year. He again pointed out the expense for e-materials, which was already at 37% of the allocated amount.

He then presented the statistics for March. There was a significant jump in patron visits, circulation, wi-fi, and programming numbers. He pointed out that the number of IT tickets did not reflect the amount of set-up and troubleshooting done during the server migration. Brent Kennimer of Parish IT gave a brief summer of a few of the issues that took more time than others. He also stated that they are about 90% complete with the project. Mr. Bolom concluded by clarifying that the number 19 under added audios was not audiobooks but new hotspots; he wanted to make sure they were counted.

In his report, Bolom summarized his professional activities. He completed the State Library's annual statistics report on time and was in the process of preparing for the upcoming Lincoln Literarium on Saturday, May 3, 2025. He was most excited about a new initiative to add patron text notifications for Library events, aiming for a launch before summer reading begins. He concluded with outreach activities at the Ruston Farmer's Market, Ruston High School, and Delta Community College.

With no further discussions, Ms. Dupree made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Norris seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.