



Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Bogalusa Branch
Thursday, July 20, 2023, 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order by President Suzie Betts at 5:35pm

Board Members present: Mrs. Suzie Betts, Ms. Kewanda August, Ms. Penny Moses, Mr. Perry Talley, Mrs. Sally Thomas, and Mr. Donald Westmoreland

Guest: Mrs. Donna Graham, Director of Finance, Washington Parish

Special note: Ms. August entered the meeting at 5:45pm.

II. Invocation by Mrs. Sally Thomas

III. Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Perry Talley

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to accept the agenda; seconded by Mrs. Thomas. All present Board Members agreed.

Motion passed.

V. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, May 18, 2023

A motion was made by Mrs. Thomas to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Ross. All present Board Members agreed.

Motion passed.

VI. Old Business

A. Affirm the Board's poll vote to close the Library on Monday, July 3, 2023 in recognition of the State and Parish decisions to declare it a holiday.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to affirm the Board's poll vote decision to close the Library on Monday, July 3, 2023; seconded by Ms. Moses.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Mr. Donald Westmoreland: Yes

Motion passed.

Ms. Kewanda August entered the meeting at this point.

B. Personnel Handbook (guest Mrs. Donna Graham, Director of Finance)

The Board discussed the possibility of coming under the Washington Parish Government Employee Handbook. A primary issue of concern was the benefits of part-time workers.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses that Mrs. Ireland and Mrs. Graham meet and put the situation into some sort of action that can be presented to the Library Board; seconded by Mr. Westmoreland.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Donald Westmoreland: Yes

Motion passed.

C. Angie Branch Update

A motion was made by Mrs. Thomas to amend the budget to allow \$150,000 be taken from the fund balance and placed in the Capital Assets line to be used specifically for Angie Branch renovations; seconded by Mr. Westmoreland.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Donald Westmoreland: Yes

Motion passed.

VII. New Business

Brief discussion about creating a committee to start looking into the millage—what we need to do, both, to renew our millage and to look at an eventual increase.

A. ECF Grant Ending - 2023 and 2024 Budget Implications

The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Grant that has allowed us to supply residents with hotspots for checkout ended in June. We will continue to provide this service, using funds in our technology budget. We are hopeful that another grant, maybe through the Louisiana Digital Equity Plan, will come up in the future.

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to use library funds to continue the hotspot checkout program; seconded by Mrs. Thomas.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Donald Westmoreland: Yes

Motion passed.

B. New Library Card Policy

Mrs. Ireland explained the contents of SB 7, which was signed into law and became Act 436. The State Library is still working out what factors libraries will need to keep in consideration to comply with the law. She is currently working on a tiered system, which may include a Restricted Adult card that could be used by homeless patrons.

VIII. Correspondence and Communication - None

IX. Director's Report - see attached report

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to close the Franklinton Branch until noon on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 to allow the branch to accommodate the Southeast Louisiana Library Youth Services Meeting; seconded by Ms. Moses.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Donald Westmoreland: Yes

Motion passed.

X. General Public Comment - None

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to adjourn; seconded by Ms. August. All present Board Members agreed. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm, Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Franklinton Branch.