



New Orleans Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Main Library Board Room
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
4:30 p.m.

NOTE REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT:

The legal purpose of open meetings is to allow individuals to observe and participate in the deliberations of public bodies. Meetings of public bodies must be open to the public unless closed pursuant to a statutory exception, such as set forth in R.S. 42:16 – 42:18, which authorizes closed executive sessions. Public bodies must provide an opportunity for public comment prior to action on the agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. The governing body may adopt reasonable rules and restrictions regarding the comment period. R.S. 42:14, requires each public body, except school boards, conducting a meeting that is subject to the notice requirement of R.S. 42:19(A), to allow a public comment period prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken.

NOTICE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING:

This meeting is being conducted via teleconference per Executive Order 59-JBE-2020 Section 2.C, which states: “All state agencies, boards and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state shall continue to provide for attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference and such attendance shall be allowed during the pendency of this emergency. All efforts shall be made to provide for observation and input by members of the public. Before any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the state agency, boards and commission, or local political subdivision of the state shall first provide a written certification that it will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Such certification shall be posted at the same time and in the same manner as the agenda for the meeting. Nothing in this order shall be interpreted to waive any notice requirements.”

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order**
 - A. Board Chair, Vonda Flentroy-Rice called the Special Board meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

- II. **Roll Call -- 4:33 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Chair, Vonda Flentroy-Rice; Vice-chair, Dana Henry; Secretary, Andrea Neighbours; Treasurer, Kathleen Coverick; Bill Settoon; Justin Ross-Hillard
Not Present: Raquel Dufauchard; Phala Kimbrough-Mire; Daniel Tapia
NOPL Staff Present: NOPL Executive Director, Dr. Gabriel Morley; Executive Assistant, Tammy Hanson

- III. **Public Comments -- 4:35 p.m.**
 - A. No comments were made

IV. **Action Item: Approval of Millage Agreement**

- A. Mr. Henry gave the board some context as to why the Unity Statement came about. The proposed Unity Statement came about through several board members' communication with outside organizations who will be promoting the proposed millage in December 11. He noted that for December 5, 2020 election, the library millage was bundled with the Early Childhood millage resulting in a contentious atmosphere and environment on the December 5th millage. Thus, the supporting organizations for the upcoming millage thought it would be a good idea to draw up a statement that communicating that for this millage, unity is the operating principle. The main supporting organizations are all working together to inform as many people in the city about what the millage will do if supported by the voters of New Orleans. It's a public acknowledgment that we all plan to work with one another to provide factual information that's rooted in the Strategic Plan and the finances
- B. Ms. Neighbours made a motion that the board support the Millage Unity Statement. Motion was seconded by Mr. Henry. Vote passed unanimously.
- C. Ms. Neighbours will submit the approved Unity Statement to the New Orleans Public Library Foundation prior to their meeting.

V. **Introduction of new board member, Justin Ross-Hillard**

- A. Justin Ross-Hillard is our newest board member. He is a high school principal at The Net Charter School in Central City and pastor. Mr. Ross-Hillard is married with three children.
- B. Ms. Neighbours asked if there needs to be a formal presentation at the Foundation meeting explaining what the millage campaign is going to be about. Mr. Henry responded that he would make himself available to present at the meeting if the rest of the board feels a presentation is necessary. Ms. Flentroy-Rice will reach out to Demetric to see if there is a desire for a presentation at their meeting and if so, she will let Mr. Henry know.
 - 1. Mr. Settoon asked Mr. Henry if there will be an organized campaign to talk with the organizations he mentioned earlier, specifically BGR. Ms. Flentroy-Rice responded that they have had discussions with BGR already and they received a lot of great information on how we plan to spend the millage dollars.

VI. **Adjournment**

- A. Ms. Flentroy-Rice made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Settoon seconded. All members voted to adjourn the September 28, 2021 Special Board meeting at 4:45 p.m.

SIGNED:

Andrea Neighbours, Board Secretary