



**New Orleans Public Library**  
Special Board Meeting  
Main Library Board Room  
Thursday, November 11, 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 November 11, 2021 Special Board meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.
  
- II. **Roll Call (4:40 p.m.)**

**Board Members Present:** Board Chair, Vonda Flentroy-Rice; Vice Chair, Dana Henry; Secretary, Andrea Neighbours; Treasurer, Kathleen Coverick; Daniel Tapia; Raquel Dufauchard; Bill Settoon; Phala Kimbrough-Mire

**Staff Present:** Emily Painton, Jane LeGros, Tammy Hanson
  
- III. **Public Comments (4:41 p.m.)**
  - A. **There were no public comments**
  
- IV. **Action Item: Executive Director Position (4:41 p.m.)**
  - A. Ms. Flentroy-Rice made a motion to make Emily Painton, the current Director of Public Services, the new Interim Executive Director of the NOPL. Motion was seconded by Ms. Kimbrough-Mire. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Settoon inquired if interim is meant to be while the board searches for a new Director. Ms. Flentroy-Rice confirmed.
- C. Ms. Coverick asked Ms. Painton to share her background tenure with the library. Ms. Painton has been with the NOPL for six years. For almost five of that time was as the manager of the Main branch. She has been the Director of Public Services for the past year and a half. Prior to her tenure at NOPL, she was the branch manager at the Austin Public Library and an assistant manager for 10 years. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Painton served as the Assistant Dean of Library Services at Delgado's Westbank location. She began her career in academia and archives.
- D. Ms. Neighbours asked if there will be a separate meeting to begin the search for the new director. Ms. Flentroy-Rice responded that her immediate focus is to ensure there is an interim director in place to keep the library moving forward. There will be a future meeting to discuss next steps.
- E. Mr. Settoon asked if Ms. Painton has a MLIS. Ms. Painton responded that she has an MLIS from University of Texas (1998) and an MA in Art History from Tulane (2003).

V. **Adjournment**

- A. Ms. Flentroy-Rice made a motion to adjourn the November 11, 2021 special board meeting and Mr. Settoon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.