



New Orleans Public Library
Executive Committee Meeting
3rd Floor Conference Room; Main Library
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
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.

PUBLIC COMMENT IS LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES PER INDIVIDUAL

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** — (4:34 p.m.)

- II. **Roll Call**
Present: Dana Henry, Kathleen Coverick, Andrea Neighbors, Alexis Parent-Ferroulier (tardy)
Library Staff present: Emily Painton

- III. **Public Comments** — (4:35 p.m.)
 - A. There were no public comments

- IV. **Finance Report** (4:35 p.m.)
 - A. The report will be presented at the regular board meeting

- V. **Executive Director Update** – (4:36 p.m.)
 - A. State of Facilities
 - 1. Central City is our only location currently closed due to mold caused by HVAC, humidity issues. Patrick G McCann with City Property Management is overseeing this project.
 - 2. 12/5: Servpro completed the remediation of the Library space.
 - 3. 2/13: The air quality testing was completed and revealed some elevated levels of mold in the IT closet. Informed that the small a/c unit serving the IT closet has high levels of mold deep within the evaporator coils which cannot be accessed

to clean thoroughly enough to remove all of the mold. Recommendation that we remove the unit and have it replaced.

4. 12/15/2023: PM's Head of Engineering, started the paperwork to have the equipment replaced.
 5. 01/02/2024: NOPL Facilities Director reached out to Property Management to see if there were any updates. They let us know that they submitted the quote to their fiscal team so now were just waiting on the PO to be issued and would let us know as soon as they hear from them.
 6. 01/09/2024: NOPL Facilities Director reached out to Property Management to see if there were further updates. Have not heard back yet.
 7. The question from Board members was raised, asking if we might be able to open the branch while the IT closet is still being remediated and the HVAC is removed and replaced. Director Painton mentioned that she was open to thinking out of the box but that she didn't feel it was a good idea to allow staff or patrons back in the library until the remediation project is complete. Board Member Dana Henry suggested that we should only do that if someone would sign off on it being safe first.
 8. Boiler Replacements went out for Bid.
- B. Other Updates:
1. 12/8: We Play Center ribbon cutting at ENO. Emily Emceed, Council Member Oliver Thomas, Lorrie Brigs Deputy Assistant Secretary LA Department of Children's and Family Services; Shaun Men-a LA State Rep District 23; Co-Founder Melanie Richardson.
 2. REACH Center: Planning for a Grand Opening in Feb post Mardi Gras and before Black History Month.
 3. Envisio: Operational Plan consulting in 2024, focus groups, giving staff a chance to participate in a way they hadn't been in the past.
 4. The pro and cons were shared about having Envisio assist with the operational plan. Also there was a discussion of the pros and cons of a 3- year operational plan vs a -1-year plan.
 5. Widerstand Audit. We have seen a first draft but are still debriefing with Widerstand and will share when the final draft and our plans to address any concerns are complete.
 6. Talking to potential Executive Coaches. Had an introductory meeting with an Executive Coach at The Hive Collective. Planning to set up several more on recommendations from other Library Directors.
- C. Board attendance:
1. Valerie with the City says it sounds like there are two people who will be able to join to fill our two open positions. We do give Valerie our attendance information and if anyone isn't attending frequently enough they may be asked to step down.
- D. Library Foundation Updates:
1. Spending: The current chair of the Foundation Board is planning to step down there is also a need for more Library Foundation Board members.

VI. Discussion Regarding Executive Director Evaluation -- (5:04 p.m.)

- A. A discussion of considering the need for a consultant to help with creating the Executive Director's evaluation tool and to assist with evaluations. And the possibility of asking the Library Foundation to fund the consultant. It was

determined that the evaluation of the director can't happen until 2025 but the goals and the tool should be created and shared with the Director in 2024.

- VII. **Discussion Regarding Potential Board Members** -- (5:18 p.m.)
 - A. Board members shared potential new members. Ms. Neighbors knows an I/T person, Ms. Coverick knows a couple of architects, Mr. Henry knows a person with experience with workforce development.

- VIII. **Regular Board Meeting Agenda Review** – (5:28 p.m.)
 - A. An addition to the discussion section of the agenda: Board Cultivation to be presented by Ms. Neighbours and Ms. Coverick.

- IX. **Adjournment**
 - A. The Executive Committee was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.