



New Orleans Public Library
Executive Committee Meeting
3rd Floor Conference Room; Main Library
Tuesday, March 5, 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

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order** — (Board Chair, Dana Henry, 1 minute)
 - A. The March 5, 2024 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m.

- II. **Roll Call** — (Executive Assistant Tammy Hanson, 1 minute)

Present: Dana Henry, Chair; Andrea Neighbours, treasurer; Kathleen Coverick, Vice-Chair

Absent: Alexis Parent-Ferrouillet, Secretary

- III. **Public Comments** — (4:39 p.m.)
 - A. Several community members inquired about the Central City library closure and when it will reopen. Mr. Henry responded that the Central City building belongs to the City and the communication with them has been slow. We also are awaiting the City to appoint new board members to have enough members for quorums.

- IV. **Executive Director Update** – (5:34 p.m.)
 - A. Central City is the only branch that is closed. This is due to some remaining mold in the IT closet that needs to be remediated.
 - B. The CRC is in line for repairs through Capital Projects to fix the water infiltration. The contract to replace the boilers at Main has been awarded and we are awaiting a timeline from the contractor.

- C. The Main Library elevator/HVAC equipment is being funded through our reserves. The Capital Projects Department has written a RFP and routing it to the other necessary departments.
 - D. The Adult Programming Department had a release party for an anthology of fiction and poetry by local writers.
 - E. There is a new bill in the Louisiana legislature (HB414) to change the crime of obscenity to include content found in public libraries. Currently, the exemption in place for libraries and many other establishments is there to stop censorship of information. This bill would make public libraries and possibly their employees subject to state obscenity law.
 - F. Demetric Mercadel is stepping down as Foundation president. The idea of combining Friends with Foundation was discussed, so those organizations are competing for the same donations. Ms. Coverick added that having a quorum for Foundation meetings has been a challenge. The Foundation has earmarked \$150k for the library in 2024, but there is no long-term plan.
- V. **Fine Free** – (5:53 p.m.)
- A. NOPL went temporarily fine free during the pandemic and it has been beneficial to our **patrons**. Thus, we would like to go forward with a permanent policy to remove fines for overdue books. Fine Free will not be extended to fees for books that are lost or damaged and need to be replaced.
- VI. **Regular Board Meeting Agenda Review** – (5:57 p.m.)
- A. The Regular Board meeting agenda was approved as is.
- VII. **Adjournment**
- A. The March 5, 2024 Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.