



New Orleans Public Library
Board Meeting
3rd Floor Conference Room; Main Library
Monday, January 30, 2023
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order**
 - A. Board Chair, Vonda Flentroy-Rice, called the January 30, 2023 regular board meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

- II. **Roll Call – (4:45 p.m.)**

Board Members Present: Vonda Flentroy-Rice, Andrea Neighbours, Kathleen Coverick, Dana Henry, Justin Ross-Hilliard

Absent Board Members: Raquel Dufauchard, Alexis Parent-Ferrouillet, Phala Kimbrough-Mire

Others Present: Emily Painton, Tammy Hanson, Michel Thompson, Jane LeGros, Katy Hepner, Heather Riley, Sarah Lewis, Laura Bevins, Shannan Cvitanovic

- III. **Public Comments – (4:45 p.m.)**
 - A. There were no public comments

- IV. **Action Item: Approval of Consent Agendas – (4:46 p.m.)**
 - A. Approve November 30, 2022 board meeting minutes
 - B. Review Executive Committee January 10, 2023 meeting minutes
 1. A motion to approve the consent agendas was made by Ms. Neighbours and seconded by Mr. Ross-Hilliard. Motion passed unanimously.

- V. **Information Items – (4:47 p.m.)**
 - A. NOPL Foundation Report
 1. No one from the NOPL Foundation was in attendance
 - B. Friends of NOPL
 1. The Friends of NOPL secured a \$75k grant to fund the Best Buy Teen Tech Center for the upcoming year, a \$10k grant from AARP is used for workforce development. Additionally, Friends is applying for a LEH grant to fund a Genealogy Fest in the fall. Advertising on RTA busses has been beneficial in getting information to patrons about our services.

2. The coming budget is at the same level as the prior year. Focus is geared towards adult programming. A portion of the budget is earmarked for new shelving.
 3. Friends will double their contribution for staff scholarships to \$20k this year. There are currently eight staff members who are interested in acquiring their MLIS degrees.
 4. Friends is working on developing their own strategic planning initiatives and rebuilding their board of directors.
 5. Friends hosted author Janice Kearney as a guest speaker.
- C. State of the Library
1. The ALA convention took place last weekend at the Main library and many staff attended. Ms. Painton did the welcome speech. We offered attendees tours of the archives department and the Best Buy Teen Tech Center.
 2. Ms. Painton is now a state certified library director. She is a new board member of the New Orleans Youth Planning Board that is developing a youth master plan and analyze times and days youths get arrested which guides City Council to determine what families need in terms of youth programming.
 3. The public dashboard for the operational plan is close to completion and Sarah Lewis will be training staff and presenting a PowerPoint to all branch managers to understand our operational plan and feel more engaged in the process.
 4. Workforce development programs are being offered online job seeking training and in-person résumé building classes twice a week. We have implemented the Book-a-librarian platform and fostering partnerships.
 5. The Louisiana Workforce Commission Workforce Center have been providing busses in the Marigny/St. Claude and Upper and Lower Ninth Ward neighborhoods to provide transportation to residents with limited access.
 6. We are Partnering with Orleans Parish Sheriff's office to offer instruction to their inmate population by providing 4 laptops to be housed at the jail (with strict limitations of what can be on them) and instructing them on how to use them. The group 72+ is working with us for tech needs.
 7. HR has been consolidated with the City this week and have attended trainings. We are hoping this gives us more of a connection to the City's resources.
 8. Power washing is completed at the Main library and has begun at New Orleans East. The landscaping contract has been awarded as of January 4th and will begin soon. We are developing a facilities master plan to address issues at each branch. \$2 million has been earmarked out of the capital projects budget to replace HVAC and rooves at ENO, Algiers, Norman Mayer, and Smith branches.
 9. We are working to install/replace security alarms in all buildings that will be monitored by one company. A badge system is also being implemented.
 10. Ms. Neighbours asked if there is additional space to expand the Best Buy Teen Tech Center. Ms. Painton responded that it is in the 2023 budget and we are deliberating what space is available. The likely spaces are enterprise zones at ENO and Algiers.
- D. Financial Report
1. Budgeted personnel costs are \$13.8 million and actual expenditures is \$13 million; Budgeted operational costs is \$7 million and actual expenditures is \$5 million. All vendors have not been paid as the 2022 budget year has not closed.

VI. **Discussion Items – (5:15 p.m.)**

A. Meeting Room Policy

1. Ms. Neighbours asked if patrons who misuse the meeting room will be assessed a fine. Ms. Painton answered that no, we do not have a system in place for that. Ms. Miles added that as there is no equipment in the meeting rooms beyond tables and chairs, there would not be much opportunity to damage library property. Mr. Ross-Hilliard asked if patrons are allowed to bring food and beverages into the meeting rooms. Ms. Painton responded that it follows the same general rule as the library's policy.

VII. **Action Item: Approval of Revised Meeting Room Policy – (5:19 p.m.)**

- A. Ms. Coverick moved to approve the revised meeting room policy. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

VIII. **Adjournment**

- A. Mr. Ross-Hilliard moved to adjourn and Mr. Henry seconded the motion. The January 30, 2023 regular board meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Andrea Neighbours, Secretary