

Beauregard Parish Library Board of Control
May 4, 2020
Minutes

The Beauregard Parish Library Board of Control met virtually via Go To Meeting on May 4, 2020, as allowed by the Governor's Executive Order in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the call for social distancing. Notice was provided for the virtual meeting as required by the Executive Order and instructions for virtual attendance were shared via the public notice. President Angela Lannen called the meeting to order at 4:49 PM noting a quorum made up of trustees Lynne Boggs, Molly Poe, Tranquil Crosby, Renee Whiddon, and herself. Lannen welcomed Boggs to her first board meeting. Ex officio Mike Harper joined shortly thereafter. Erin Chesnutt, Library Director, was also present. Candice Hodges and Jo Blankenship were absent. Sheriff-elect Mark Herford joined the meeting for public participation.

The following actions were taken:

- Crosby moved to amend the agenda to move the Capital Projects report (previously part of agenda item VIII.C) to new agenda item IV.A.1. Whiddon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Poe moved to approve the minutes from the February 2020 board meeting; Crosby seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Lannen invited Herford to share a few words. Sheriff-Elect Herford expressed an interest in working together to meet our mutual goal of creating points-of-service for the Library and the Sheriff's Office in East Beauregard. He hopes to know more about the availability of funding for BPSO nearer his time to take office in July. Herford and Chesnutt expressed an interest in future talks for sharing cost for creating a joint-use facility in the area to most efficiently use tax payer monies. Chesnutt noted a reminder from ADA Landreneau that the Library cannot own property and any building would need to be either in the Sheriff's name or the Police Jury's name so Police Jury approval for the cooperative endeavor would be key. Mike Harper indicated that the Police Jury is full of jurors keen to see cooperation among agencies and moving forward in providing services where possible. He noted that the Jury has an application in to the Economic Development Administration for funds for a multi-purpose facility that, if granted, would potentially be an excellent fit for the Library, Sheriff, and possibly other agencies. At this time we do not know when we will hear about funding awards for this application. Harper also noted that the Jury is looking into encouraging internet providers to apply for USDA funding to encourage broadband improvement in rural areas. Herford asked about previous attempts to build a branch in this area; Chesnutt relayed that a previous request for bids for construction came in significantly over budget. Chesnutt noted, however, that the Police Jury recently opened construction bids on a separate project that came in significantly under the expected amount. The board indicated an interest in further investigating a cooperative endeavor between the Library, Police Jury, and Sheriff's Office for a joint-use facility.
- Poe moved and Crosby seconded to request the Police Jury re-appoint Renee Whiddon, Jo Blankenship, and Lynne Boggs. The motion carried unanimously.
- Chesnutt reminded trustees to submit their Financial Disclosure forms to the State Ethics Commission before May 15. She announced the cancellation of the Louisiana Library Association and American Library Association 2020 conferences. She announced that the FY 2019 audit is almost complete and going well and that the Library's transition to a new accounting software is complete.
- Chesnutt presented 2 possible mission statements to the Board. By vote, the Board chose "Your library is a free and trusted gateway to knowledge, entertainment, and helpful services. In a safe space with access for everyone, we serve with kindness and respect. We protect history, prepare you for tomorrow, and help you find the answers you need today" as the Library's new mission statement.

- Chesnutt reviewed actions taken since closing the library for the Stay-at-Home orders and highlighted updates to the BPL Re-Opening Plan, which continues to be available for board and staff review, as the document is fluid. The Board indicated their approval of the plan.
- Chesnutt discussed the Libraries Southwest Reciprocal Borrower's Agreement and the reason for updating it. Whiddon moved to approve signing the updated Agreement; Poe seconded and the motion passed.
- Chesnutt then discussed reports covering the Library's financial status, statistical information from the past month as compared to the previous month, community activities, facilities, and personnel.
- With no other business to attend, Whiddon moved to adjourn at 6:00. Crosby seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
/ s/ Erin N. Chesnutt,
Secretary to the Board