

BOSSIER PARISH
LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
January 10, 2024

The Library Board of Control met in regular and legal session on the 10th day of January, 2024 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Doug Rimmer, called the meeting to order. The Board members present are as follows:

Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Benton, Mr. Darby, Ms. Parks, Ms. Glorioso,
Mr. Rogers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Cochran.

Also attending: Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Administrator, Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Mr. Eric Hudson, Mr. Patrick Jackson, Mr. Heath Lyles, Ms. Felesha Sweeney, Ms. Teresa Rice, and various employees from the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Library.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby, to adopt the minutes of the November 15, 2023, board meeting.

The President called for public comment. There being none, votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.

The President announced that new officers --president and vice-president of the Board of Control for 2024--would be elected and called for nominations. Mr. Benton made a motion to nominate Mr. Salzer for president and Ms. Parks for vice-president. Motion seconded by Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Brotherton motioned and Ms. Glorioso seconded, to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rimmer called for a vote of those nominated for officers. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rimmer congratulated the new officers.

Ms. Sweeney announced that the 2024 winner of the Louisiana Library Association logo contest is a young Benton patron, Breelan Ham, who was present. His artwork will be used by the association throughout the year. President Salzer congratulated him to a round of applause from the jury, and Breelan and his family posed for photos. President Tom Salzer announced that he will recognize Breelan at the February Jury meeting with a resolution.

Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: William Purdy announced that all is running smoothly. Cold weather has led to delays in finishing exterior work on window frames at the Benton Branch.

The new Central shelving is scheduled to be installed next Monday, and the grand opening is scheduled for March 4th.

All branches are winterized for the impending freezing weather.

Technical Services: Manager Teresa Rice showed a chart with the most circulated physical items in 2023. The department spent 98.9% of its \$850,000 budget, and 21,908 items were added in 2023. Hoopla saw a 13.5% gain in usage from 2022, and Overdrive use rose 20% from the previous year.

Monthly Statistics: Clara Anne Madison presented November and December 2023 statistics, and showed snowy scenes from the History Center's online photo collection.

November and December 2023 Statistics

Circulation	35,028	30,938
Programs	231	199
.Program Attendance	2,878	2,349
Computer Usage	2,001	1,705
Borrowers Added	325	273
Patron Count	22,275	18,528

Financials: Library Director Felesha Sweeney presented Operating and Construction Funds reports.

Operating Fund, January 1, 2024

Revenues	\$8,864,857.67
Expenditures	\$6,432,819.64
Ending Fund Balance	\$5,802,112.78

Motion to approve the Operating Funds was made by Mr. Rimmer and seconded by Mr. Darby. Motion carried unanimously.

Construction Fund, January 1, 2024

Revenue	\$245,023.39
Revenues	\$4,595,464.35
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,843,308.86

Motion to approve the Construction Fund report was made by Mr. Darby and seconded by Mr. Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

Felesha wished everyone a happy new year, and thanked jurors for library staff raises in 2024.

On January 1st the library will be cashless, and give patrons up to 20 free copies a day in the early phase of the transition while details are worked out. Faxing will also be free.

The library is looking forward to the grand opening of the New Central Complex on March 4th. Central will be closed on February 29th to box books and other materials to move them across the street to the new library. Jim Firth is coordinating the move.

Felesha and Anne recently visited all branches with LWCC safety consultant Jason Hazelton. His assessment of the housekeeping in the branches was favorable, and he was impressed that

branches already had safety plans in place. In the next few weeks, Jason will design plans for active shooter events tailored to each location's specific needs.

BPL has two new employees: Zoe Decicco at Haughton, and Sarah Nobles at Benton.

Felesha reminded jurors that they are responsible for her annual evaluation on her anniversary date, January 20th. She also invited new jurors to take a tour of the Administrative Building.

Ms. Glorioso asked if there were any updates to the availability of administrator certification at the State Library. Felesha replied that there hasn't been any.

Mr. Ford: Mr. Ford and Mr. Rimmer have recently received emails about the State Library and Lafayette Parish not renewing their membership in the American Library Association. He will include the subject on next month's agenda and discuss the possibility with jurors of Bossier Parish Library following suit.

There being no further business to come before the Library Board of Control in regular and legal session on this 10th day of January, 2024, the meeting was adjourned.

DATE APPROVED

MR. TOM SALZER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
OF CONTROL