**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**STATE LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

State Library of Louisiana

701 North Fourth Street

Baton Rouge, La

5th Floor Capitol View Room

Thursday, June 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**Members Present**: Nicole Allmon-Learson, Georgia Brown, Darryl Gissel, James Lee, Chair, Christy Reeves, Dorothy White

**Members Absent**: Dr. Argiro Morgan

**Guest Present:** Amanda Taylor, Director, Concordia Parish Library

**DCRT Staff Present:**  Julia George Moore and Julie Chapman

**I. Call to Order**

James Lee called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Lee asked new board member Christy Reeves to introduce herself.

**II. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

James Lee asked for a motion to approve the agenda, which was made by Darryl Gissel and seconded by Christy Reeves. The motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from the Quarterly Meeting held April 27, 2023**

James Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Darryl Gissel and seconded by Christy Reeves. The motion to approve the agenda was passed with a vote of five for and one against.

**V. Report from the Interim State Librarian**

Meg Placke, Interim State Librarian, discussed legislation affecting libraries from the 2023 Session. Senate Bill 7 by Senator Heather Cloud requires that each public library shall adopt a policy to limit access of minors to sexually explicit material. This bill has not been signed by the governor. The State Library is already working with the public libraries to ensure their policies will meet the requirements of the bill should it become law. Julia George Moore will help the State Library staff advise the public libraries with any questions that might come up.

Senate Bill 201 by Senator Hewitt will allow public bodies to meet electronically. Ms. Placke and Ms. Moore are researching the question of whether or not this will apply to library boards.

Ms. Placke also reported on the State Library budget FY23-24. She said that it is overall good, and that we have enough funds in the budget to fill all 48 positions. By next week, we will have 45 of those 48 filled, with vacancies being the Deputy State Librarian, the Library Development Administrative Coordinator, and a Reference Librarian. All staff will receive raises in July, and she is working on position upgrades for staff with the help of Julie Chapman, HR, DCRT. An increase in operating services will go to necessary IT upgrades and equipment, the increased costs of the statewide ILL delivery system, and towards the development of a new website.

**VI. State Librarian Search Plan**

James Lee asked Dorothy White to speak about the proposed State Librarian Search Plan. The plan was discussed by the board, and suggestions for edits were made. Mr. Lee then asked for a motion to approve the State Librarian Search Plan as revised and with Ms. Moore and Ms. Chapman to align language as needed according to the Revised Statutes. Nicole Allmon-Learson made the motion, which was seconded by Georgia Brown, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**VII. New Business**

Nicole Allmon-Learson reported on her draft of bylaws for the Board. She asked that the board read the draft bylaws and said that the board will discuss at a future meeting. Ms. Allmon-Learson also said that the bylaws will be reviewed by the board’s attorney, Julia George Moore, to make sure the bylaws align with law.

August and September meeting dates were not set, as these meetings will be for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of State Librarian. These dates will be set after July 31st, the closing date for the applications for State Librarian. Ms. White asked that the board members check their calendars for these two months and let Tracy LeDoux know any dates they cannot attend a meeting.

The fourth quarter meeting will be held on October 27, 2023.

**VIII. Announcements**

The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Conference will be held in Baton Rouge on July 6-8, 2023. The Public/Trustee Luncheon will be on Friday, July 7, from 12 – 1:30. The board was asked to let Tracy LeDoux know if they would like to attend. Dorothy White will provide information to the board on joining LLA, and Julia George Moore will research the State Library paying membership and fees for State Library Board members.

**T**he next board meeting will take place on Friday, October 27, immediately prior to the Louisiana Book Festival Authors Party held in the State Library from 7 pm to 9 pm. All board members are invited to attend the party with a guest.

The 2023 Louisiana Book Festival will run from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, October 28, and feature roughly 200 authors, scholars, and panelists.

The festival will cover the cost of a hotel room at Hilton Baton Rouge for any out-of-town board member planning to stay in town after the party to attend the festival the next day. Please let Tracy LeDoux know if you will need a hotel room.

**IX. Adjournment**

Nicole Allmon-Learson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.