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, April 27, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**Members Present**: Nicole Allmon-Learson, Darryl Gissel, James Lee, Dr. Argiro Morgan, Gail Waters, Dorothy White

**Members Absent**: Georgia Brown

**SLOL Staff Present**: Aaron Anderson, Jim Davis, Michael Golrick, Lesli Gray, Jamie Hebert, Jeirico Howard, Daniel Monteverde, Meg Placke, Megan Thomas, Robby Wilson

**DCRT Staff Present:**  Julia George Moore

**I. Call to Order**

James Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Lee asked all Board members to introduce themselves. In Georgia Brown's absence, James Lee spoke about her dedication to the State Library, and said that she had asked him to serve as chair in her absence.

**II. Public Comment**

Dorothy White asked that comments be limited to three minutes. It was so moved by Gail Waters, Darryl Gissel seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Public comments were made by the following people: Meg Placke, Megan Thomas, Clark Forrest, Kathleen Callahan, Jamie Hebert, Aaron Anderson, Laura Acosta, Josh Hebert, Robby Wilson, Lesli Gray, Celise Reich Harper, Stacie Davis, Jim Davis, Rebecca Hamilton, Jackie Jones, Katie McClelland, Angela Germany. Mr. Lee then asked that letters from Clark Forrest and Sonnet Ireland be read.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

James Lee asked for a motion to approve the agenda, which was made by Nicole Allmon-Learson, seconded by Darryl Gissel, and the motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from the Quarterly Meeting held July 21, 2022**

James Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Gail Waters made the motion, Nicole Allmon-Learson seconded, and the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held July 21, 2022 was unanimously approved.

**V. Election/Selection of Officers**

James Lee opened the floor for election of officers. Gail Waters nominated James Lee as Chair, Darryl Gissel seconded. Mr. Lee was elected Chair by unanimous vote. Dorothy White nominated Darryl Gissel to serve as Vice Chair and he declined. Darryl Gissel nominated Dorothy White to serve as Vice Chair and she declined. Nicole Allmon-Learson volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Gail Waters nominated Ms. Allmon-Learson to serve as Vice-Chair, Darryl Gissel seconded the nomination. Ms. Allmon-Learson was elected Vice-Chair by unanimous vote.

**VI. Executive Secretary/Assistant Secretary Position**

James Lee asked for a motion for the Board to advertise for the position of Executive Secretary/Assistant Secretary. Argiro Morgan made the motion and Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Lee asked for a motion to appoint an Interim Executive Secretary/Assistant Secretary. The motion was made by Darryl Gissel, seconded by Argiro Morgan, and unanimously approved. Darryl Gissel moved to appoint Meg Placke as Interim State Librarian, and Argiro Morgan seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lee requested volunteers to serve on a committee to assist the Board with the search for the permanent Executive Secretary/Assistant Secretary/State Librarian. Argiro Morgan, Dorothy White, and James Lee volunteered. Ms. White volunteered to gather information and documents relative to the position and the procedure for the Board’s next meeting.

**VII. Appointment of State Board of Library Examiners**

Dorothy White spoke about the State Board of Library Examiners (SBLE), its powers and duties, its membership, and why new appointments are needed. Discussion was held about how members are named to the SBLE, and it was decided to study this further before naming a third member. Dorothy White then made a motion to name Michael Golrick, the Associate State Librarian, to the SBLE, which was seconded by Darryl Gissel. The motion to appoint Mr. Golrick to serve on the SBLE was unanimously approved.

**VIII. By-laws**

Dorothy White informed the board that the bylaws of the State Library Board of Commissioners are no longer in the file. Discussion was held about whether the previous bylaws should be declared null and void before new bylaws can be written. The board decided this was not necessary, and Nicole Allmon-Learson encouraged the board to adopt new bylaws as soon as possible. She volunteered to draft new bylaws. Dorothy White volunteered to help her. James Lee also asked that a Board Procedural Manual be created. It was decided to postpone further discussion of the bylaws until special meeting is called specifically to discuss and adopt new bylaws.

**IX. New Business**

Next meeting date was discussed. Nicole Allmon-Learson made a motion that a special meeting be set in June, and the next regular meeting be set in the third quarter. Darryl Gissel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Specific dates were not set. James Lee called for agenda items for future meetings, but none were suggested. Gail Waters announced that she intends to resign from the board for personal reasons before her term ends in August. Argiro Morgan announced that while she will finish out her term, she will ask that she not be reappointed in July when her term ends. James Lee asked that a letter be written to Georgia Brown thanking her for her years of service as Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

**X. Adjournment**

Darryl Gissel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Gail Waters seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.