

**STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**July 17, 2013
10:00 a.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The State Library Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Tony Clesi. Additional members in attendance included Georgia Brown, Evelyn Valore, Louis Covington and newly appointed board member Mrs. Johnell Matthews. Absent from the meeting were Dr. Argiro Morgan, Patricia Preis and Paulette Holahan. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tony Clesi called for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was offered by Georgia Brown and seconded by Evelyn Valore and unanimously carried.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Evelyn Valore and seconded by Georgia Brown, the minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The meeting began with an official welcome from Hamilton to Johnell Matthews, the newest board member appointed by Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne. Matthews shared with the Board that she is a retired educator with over 20 years in the public school system in EBR Parish. She further shared her experience as an English and French teacher at Baton Rouge High School, a Foreign Language Supervisor and an Assistant Principal for East Baton Rouge Parish for about 10 years. After retiring from the school system Matthews attended law school. She graduated in 2001 and passed both bar exams in Louisiana and Mississippi by 2002.

Hamilton shared that she had nothing new to report about the budget and expounded on the fact that while funding has not changed the workflow is still heavy for her hardworking staff. She reiterated that the State Library has struggled with funding and staffing since 2008 when the economy took a downturn, yet her dedicated staff continue to meet and even exceed expectations with no raises and drastically increased workloads. The State Library staff of 46 are doing the work of 71 positions.

Hamilton informed the board that the 3rd Waiver request from the State Library has been submitted to IMLS because for the 4th year in a row the State Library has gone below its

maintenance of effort to qualify for its federal funding. If the State Library is not granted the requested waivers, federal funding will have to be returned to IMLS. Hamilton further explained that the current waiver approvals do not protect the State Library for future years, only the years the waivers were requested for. Hamilton expressed serious concerns that the State Library will be unable to operate if money has to be returned to IMLS.

Hamilton discussed that her schedule this quarter has consisted of several special meetings concerning new Library Directors. She explained when Library Boards have a director retire or resign they contact her to help them in their search for a replacement. The State Library has many resources available to help in the search process and Hamilton will meet with boards to help guide them through the process. Once a director is hired the State Library then provides an orientation program for them and helps them work towards certification.

Hamilton announced that they met with the local Downtown Development District Literary Committee members to designate Baton Rouge as “a Literary City”. The State Library will serve as a local partner.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Hamilton began new business by confirming the date of this year’s Book Festival scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Hamilton informed newly appointed board member Johnell Matthews that the State Library had lost state funding for the Book Festival and the Louisiana Library and Book Festival Foundation, matched with federal funds, primarily funded the festival with some funding provided by the Office of Tourism.

Hamilton wanted to close the meeting with a formal good-bye to long serving and dedicated board member Georgia Brown whose term ended July 31st. Hamilton presented Brown with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of herself, the State Library Board of Commissioners and the State Library of Louisiana. Hamilton went on to praise Brown’s efforts during her tenure specifically during the aftermath of the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008, during the reorganization Hamilton undertook in 2006, during budget cuts that began in 2008 and during changes in administrations which left the State Library vulnerable. Hamilton described Brown’s leadership both at the state and local level, her dedication to the field of librarianship, her willingness to always be available to provide guidance and support and her energy and enthusiasm that she always brought to the table. Brown expressed her appreciation and considered it a joy and a privileged opportunity to be on the State Library Board of Commissioners especially as a professional librarian, a former library director, a former EBR board member and a library user.

Next Meeting Date

November 1, 2013 6:00 PM

Board Room, Second floor, State Library

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Clesi made motion to adjourn and Georgia Brown approved. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary
State Library Board of Commissioners

Tony Clesi, Chair
State Library Board of Commissioners