

TENTATIVE AGENDA
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
AUGUST 20, 2015
4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF JULY 6, 2015 AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 16, 2015
- III. AWARDS
- IV. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR
 - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - B. SYSTEM REPORTS
- V. OTHER REPORTS
 - A. RIVER CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY
 - B. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS
 - C. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR A BROKER TO SEARCH FOR A SITE FOR A SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY, AND TO REQUEST THAT AN AGREEMENT BE EXECUTED – AD HOC COMMITTEE
 - B. VOTE TO AMEND THE LIBRARY RULES OF BEHAVIOR FOR PATRONS TO INCLUDE A LIMITED RESTRICTION ON BEVERAGES AND FOOD IN LIBRARY FACILITIES, AND ALSO AMENDING THE RULES TO INCLUDE CLARIFICATION REGARDING FURNITURE.
- VII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD'S PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY, ALL ITEMS ON WHICH ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS MAY BE RECEIVED ON OTHER TOPICS REPORTED AT SUCH TIME AS THE OPPORTUNITY IS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OR THE PERSON CONDUCTING THE MEETING.

Minutes of the Meeting of the
East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control

August 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held in the first floor Conference Room of the Main Library at Goodwood at 7711 Goodwood Boulevard on Thursday, August 20 2015. Ms. Kizzy Payton, President of the Board called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members of the Board present were Ms. Terrie Johnson, Mr. Jason Jacob, Mr. Logan Leger, Mr. Donald Luther, Jr., Ms. Kathy Wascom, and Mr. Travis Woodard. Also in attendance were Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director; Ms. Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director of Branch Services; Ms. Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director of Administration; Mr. Ronnie Pierce, Assistant Library Business Manager; Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; Mr. Brian Thornhill, Library LAN Administrator; and Mr. Tim Smith, Library Network Technician I. Absent from the meeting was Ms. Rhonda Pinsonat, Library Business Manager; and Ms. Sonya Gordon, Library Public Relations Coordinator. Sgt. Patricia Carr of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office; Mr. Dirk Graeser, videographer for Metro 21; Ms. Andrea Gallo, reporter with *The Advocate*, and three members of the community also attended.

Ms. Payton said we will start the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. She asked Mr. Luther to lead the pledge.

Ms. Payton then asked Ms. Zozulin to take the roll which she did.

Ms. Payton then asked for the approval of the minutes of the special budget meeting of July 6, 2015, and the regular Library Board meeting of July 16, 2015. Mr. Woodward made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Johnson and approved unanimously.

III. Awards

Ms. Payton read Item III and asked Mr. Watts to report. Mr. Watts stated that The Library Design Collaborative consisting of Cockfield Jackson Architects, Tipton Associates, and PSA Dewberry, received the AIA Baton Rouge 2015 Rose Award for the category of Members' Choice for the design the Main Library at Goodwood. He also said this award was given recently and is a special acknowledgement for the Library especially in light of the fact that it is given by local architects. We should be receiving a certificate soon and we will have a small ceremony for the acceptance and display of the award. Ms. Payton said this is wonderful news and she congratulated Mr. Watts and the staff. She asked for any Board comments. There being none, she asked for public comments. There were none, so she proceeded to Item IV, Reports by the Director.

IV. Reports by the Director

A. Financial Reports

Ms. Payton asked Mr. Watts to present the reports. Mr. Watts asked Mr. Pierce to make the financial report. Mr. Pierce said that the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Encumbrances through July 31, 2015 show operating expenditures of \$19,715,385.00 or 45.44% of the operating budget. Through July, we should have spent no more than 58% of the operating budget.

Cash Collections from Property Taxes for 2015 remain positive as we are approximately \$1,050,000 and 2.72% ahead of the same eight months in 2014.

Mr. Pierce asked if there were any questions about the financial statements. There being none, Item B was presented.

B. System Reports

Mr. Watts asked Ms. Stein to give her report. Ms. Stein announced that there is another accolade for the Library. She noted that the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) annual *Baton Rouge CityStats* report has just been published. Under the rating of government services in 2015, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library has received the highest rating of all services. She added that the ratings for the Library's resources including books, databases, e-books, and other electronic collections have increased over the last four years. Ms. Stein said we can say the Library is #1!

She told the Board that the Library has had a very good summer. The teens which are generally a group that is hard to motivate to use Library resources, read more books than ever before this summer.

She then gave the PowerPoint presentation *Around the Parish in 90 Seconds* which included the month of August 2015. Below are some of the highlights:

- In July the Multi-Cultural Fest was held at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library. Participants and attendees were present in record numbers.
- The end of the Summer Reading Program yielded some surprises. At the Fairwood Branch Library a daycare dropped off a thank you poster noting each child's favorite program. The Mounted Police received the highest marks.
- The Friendship Force formed a special collaboration with the Library for this event. They helped the day of the program and also made a donation to assist with the food.
- At the end of the summer reading program, students turn in their reading logs. Prizes provided by the Patrons of the Public Library, our friends' group, are given for completing logs. The grand prize this year was an iPad given to a child who read 600 books.

- The teens participated in a film workshop in collaboration with NOVAC from New Orleans. The teens made a movie which we showed in the Plaza followed by a reception for the actors and their parents.
- New technology tables were installed at the Carver and Zachary Branch Libraries to provide more open space, better visibility, and functionality.
- Two weeks ago the Genealogy Department held its first graduation for the completion of the genealogy badge course.
- Long-time residents of Baton Rouge will remember the former Istrouma High School. The Genealogy Department is accepting archived items from the school including the mascot, Nawaganti. The alumni refurbished him and installed him at the Main Library.
- Our *Authors after Hours* event opened to a full house featuring author, Rick Bragg. He discussed one of his many books, *Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story*, a biography of the rock and roll legend.
- Mr. Bragg is a great southern storyteller. He particularly enjoyed Sprocket holding a miniature of his book, and posing as the super hero, Superman.
- We have begun the in-depth video discussion series, *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*. We are viewing *The Abolitionists*, *The Loving Story*, *Slavery by Another Name* and *Freedom Fighters* on Thursday evenings at the Main Library.
- The discussion series has been complemented by the *Faces of Freedom* and *Voices of Freedom* with artist Ransom Rambo.
- We have enlarged photos from our Baton Rouge Archives about the Civil Rights Movement in Baton Rouge and displayed them on the first and second floors at Main. People of all ages and races stop to look and read about these events. These photos will also be displayed at the branches with the Scotlandville Branch next on the schedule.
- Civil Rights tied in with the multimedia program presented by nationally acclaimed local author Mike Rubin. His novel, *The Cottoncrest Curse* was discussed. He covered history from reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement.
- We had a Readathon of Harper Lee's book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. All of these programs and events were given extensive media coverage on TV, radio, in print and in social media.
- The Bartram Trail marker will be dedicated on Sunday, September 13th at 3:30 in our Plaza. A reception will follow featuring music by the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society. Two hundred years ago William Bartram traveled through America documenting the fauna and flora. He traveled through Louisiana very near to our present location.

Also on September 13th English author Andrea Wulf will discuss her book, *Founding Gardeners*. The first four presidents of the United States were very interested in gardening, agriculture, and native history. These topics influenced much of their philosophies and government policies.

The 2015 Mini Maker-Faire[®] will be held on Saturday, September 26th. Food trucks will provide a variety of delicious treats.

Ms. Stein announced that on Wednesday, October 7th the Library will host the international author David A. Adler, author of the Cam Jansen series for the 38th Annual Author Illustrator Program. The event that evening is a free workshop for adults and children.

Ms. Stein also noted that 101 children are now safer in their car seats. The State Police held a child seat inspection for parents and grandparents in the Main Library parking lot. This inspection included correcting improperly installed car seats

On a lighter note Ms. Stein explained that the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest for the worst first sentence for a novel based on the well-known phrase, “It was a dark and stormy night” had an entry and winner among our Library staff. Mr. David Laatsch, Reference Librarian, was the winner in the Adventure Category with this opening sentence, “After weeks at sea, Captain Fetherstonhaugh and his hardy crew had at last crossed the halfway point, and he mused that the closest dry land now lay in the Americas, assuming of course, that it was not raining there.”

Ms. Stein asked if there were any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

Ms. Payton read Item A under Other Reports and asked Mr. Watts to report.

V. Other Reports

A. River Center Branch Library

Mr. Watts discussed the River Center Branch project. He said the architects are reconciling the various comments and corrections the staff have made to the construction documents. This work is in preparation for issuing the invitation to bid on the construction of the new library branch. He noted that we had a very productive finish schedule meeting with Ms. Angela Hyatt of Schwartz-Silver Architects and Mr. Rex Cabaniss of WHLC Architects on July 21st.

Mr. Watts said he wished to mention the great work done by the staff who reviewed the placement of cameras, and security sensors. It was a difficult task, but resulted in agreement by all. He added that the final construction documents should be ready in two to three weeks.

Mr. Watts told the Board that at next month’s Board meeting, he will have some information about a small site for temporary public service downtown while the new branch is constructed.

Ms. Payton asked if there were any questions by the Board. There were none, so she proceeded to Item B.

B. Maintenance Report and Additional Capital Projects

Ms. Husband gave an update on the major maintenance projects. In regard to the exterior lighting project, final acceptance was approved by the Metropolitan Council at their July 22nd meeting.

In regard to the Greenwell Springs Road Regional and the Scotlandville Branch Libraries flooring projects, installation of the flooring will begin at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch on September 21st. The contractor will start in the reference area with an estimated completion time of one month for the branch. Flooring will then be installed at the Scotlandville Branch Library.

In regard to the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library renovation project, we had the monthly update this week. The raceways for the data and power have arrived. The contractor is waiting on the approval of a change order for some additional floor boxes before they proceed with the installation. The floor boxes were added to provide more flexibility for the future. In addition, the decision was made not to install power in two of the end panels of the shelving, but to install floor boxes.

Ms. Husband noted that sprinkler heads have been ordered and should arrive soon. The contractor provided the Library with a list of submittals with their status for such items as flooring, wall coverings, and paint. She stated that we have approved most of the requests for changes such as the grilles discussed last month and the floor boxes. Also most of the furniture orders have been submitted.

Ms. Husband said that photos of the renovation work do not show a dramatic change, so these photos have not been posted on the Library website. Once the contractor begins putting in walls, flooring and floor boxes the change will be apparent. So these photos will be placed on our website under the Library Capital Improvements link on the Library's homepage.

She then discussed the Carver Branch Library Roof Restoration project. The contract for professional services was approved by the Metropolitan Council on July 22nd. The contract is currently in the City-Parish Purchasing Department.

She noted that we had a pre-construction meeting this morning at the Baker Branch Library for the replacement of the fence surrounding the property. There are some tree branches overhanging the fence and some small to medium sized trees that are close to the fence on the abutting properties. DPW Architectural Services will check the survey of the property for servitude areas to determine how we need to proceed to remove or trim those branches and small trees. Once we have more information, we will send letters to the residents whose property is adjacent to the library's and who share the fence with us, notifying them of the fence replacement.

Ms. Husband asked the Board if there are any questions. Ms. Wascom asked if there is a problem with drainage and the parking lot at the Main Library as mentioned in *The Advocate* recently. Mr. Watts replied that he was going to mention that in his miscellaneous reports. He

said we had already spoken with the architects and BREC on a solution prior to the mention in the paper. Part of the problem has been the maintenance of the trees and leaves on BREC's property adjacent to the bioswale on the northeast corner of the parking lot. Pine cones and oak leaves from trees on BREC property were falling into the bioswale clogging the drain in the bioswale. Some maintenance and clean-up has improved the issue. Mr. Watts said that yesterday after 2 inches of rain, he checked the bioswale and it was draining. He added that Mr. Tim Bankston, Library Facilities Manager, will build a cage to place over the drain to prevent the mulch from clogging it. Of course, periodically the drain will need to be inspected with any debris removed before another obstruction occurs.

Ms. Payton read Item C and asked Mr. Watts to report.

C. Miscellaneous Reports

Mr. Watts gave an update on the Main Library. He reported that we have had some electrical problems over the last several months. The cause is not directly internal, but relates to the electrical feed to the library. We had a number of short power outages which then caused issues within the library. One set of problems involved a number of rapid, repeated outages which created multiple automatic, contradictory commands overwhelming the energy management system. Johnson Controls implemented some protocols to enable the system to cope with these problems. We also spoke to Entergy, and have not recently experienced those multiple short outages.

Mr. Watts also reported that another glass panel on the north curtain wall cracked. The architects feel it was caused by some type of impact. However, there is no evidence of that, so discussions are continuing among DPW, the Library staff and the architects to determine the cause.

We have attempted to work on an agreement for grounds maintenance with BREC. We have now decided the best course of action is to initiate a City-Parish contract for lawn mowing and grounds maintenance at the Main Library.

We have had some issues with the outside screen facing the plaza. The manufacturer's representative came to the library and diagnosed the problem. He said the cable connection can become loose and unseated on any one of the 99 tiles. Then all tiles in the linear array following the defective tile cannot receive a transmitted image beyond the point of the defective tile. The manufacturer feels the hand-crimped connecting cables are the problem, and has agreed to supply factory molded connections to replace all the cabling for each tile. The replacement of the cables will take three to four days of work.

Mr. Watts mentioned that AT&T has finally cleaned up their equipment on the right of way on Goodwood Boulevard thanks to Mr. Brian Thornhill, Library LAN Administrator. He found the right AT&T employee who could get this work completed.

In regard to the remediation of the new Outreach building at 3434 North Boulevard, DPW has requested requisitions for the asbestos abatement and flooring work within the building. The bids are due on September 15th.

Mr. Watts concluded his remarks with a comment about the CityStats report. He said the satisfaction rating for the Library has traditionally been high, right along with the Fire Department. We are most proud of that because it indicates that our staff does a good job of delivering services to the public.

Ms. Payton agreed and said we can be proud. She thanked Mr. Watts for his report and asked the Board if there were any questions. There being none, she asked for public comments. There were no other comments, so Ms. Payton read Item A under Old Business.

VI. Old Business

A. Vote to Approve the Committee Recommendation for a Broker to Search for a Site for a South Branch Library, and to Request an Agreement be Executed – Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Payton asked Mr. Leger, one of the ad hoc committee members who served as committee chair, to give his report. Mr. Leger said the committee met earlier this week to review the brokers from the two firms who submitted responses to the City-Parish Purchasing Request for Qualifications. He added that it was a very productive meeting, and the firms were both very qualified. After discussions by the committee, there was a unanimous decision to recommend to the entire Library Board that the firm of Sperry Van Ness/Graham, Langlois & Legendre be approved to search for a site for the south branch library and that an agreement be executed by City-Parish.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Leger to repeat the name of the firm the committee is recommending which he did. Ms. Payton asked if there were any other comments from the Board. She then asked Mr. Watts if he had any comments. He said he felt that the firms made good presentations. It was difficult for the committee to make a decision, but they made one. He added he felt there would be a beneficial result.

Ms. Payton asked for public comments. Mr. Harvey Landry, a member of the public asked for the name of the firm chosen and Ms. Payton replied Sperry Van Ness.

Ms. Payton then asked for a motion. Mr. Luther made a motion that the Board vote to recommend Sperry Van Ness as the broker to search for a site for a south branch library and that an agreement be executed. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Payton thanked Mr. Leger, Mr. Luther and Mr. Woodard for serving on the committee.

B. Vote to Amend the Library Rules of Behavior for Patrons to Include a Limited Restriction on Beverages and Food in Library Facilities, and also Amending the Rules to Include Clarification regarding Furniture

Ms. Payton read Item B under Old Business. She said she wants to break this item into two discussions since they are very different; one regarding food in the library and the other regarding furniture with a separate vote for each item.

Ms. Payton asked Mr. Watts to make his comments regarding food and beverages in the Library. Mr. Watts said in response to some of the questions asked at last month's Board meeting, he added more detail to the policy text. He added that he isn't sure if there is too much detail because it is almost as long as the entire *Rules of Behavior for Patrons* policy. The attempt has been made to clarify some issues with some of these details coming from Board members such as drinks must be in non-glass containers. Mr. Watts said we are stipulating that light snacks and easily contained or wrapped foods for individual consumption are permissible such as cookies and crackers. We added non-glass containers with caps or spill-resistant lids. We clarified that there are areas where food and beverages are restricted and that library staff can designate where food and beverages are acceptable, but can also modify these areas based on experience and library needs. Mr. Watts added that examples where food is not allowed would be in a quiet study room. Restrictions will vary from branch to branch depending on the facility's accommodations.

He also stated that we produced a draft brochure for the public containing guidelines for food and beverages in the Library. This guide will help staff and patrons determine what is appropriate. For example, one guideline states that if a knife and fork are needed to consume the food, it is not permissible. It also specifies that greasy, drippy, saucy or runny foods are not allowed.

Mr. Watts noted that prior to his arrival as Director during the planning sessions with the public for the design of the new Main Library; being allowed to bring beverages and snacks into the library was a high priority for the public. He added that the staff was seeing the trend in other library systems across the country for allowing food and drinks inside library facilities. With this in mind we surveyed other libraries regarding their policies. He said he read the conduct policies of approximately 25 libraries that were of mid-sized or larger populations and suburban/urban throughout the south starting with Virginia and extending to Mississippi. He reported that two did not allow food or beverages, three were unclear in their rules or guidelines, fifteen allowed food and beverages, four allowed only beverages, and one was not clear about food.

Mr. Watts explained that we ran two surveys. One survey was asked of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) whose members are libraries across the country. There were 41 responses. The overwhelming majority of those allowed light snacks and drinks in their facilities. A large number permitted heavier foods.

The other survey polled 142 Louisiana libraries. The proportion of libraries allowing food and drinks was not as large as the ULC libraries. About 61% allowed beverages out of 87 responses, and about 44% permitted light snacks out of 62 responses. Mr. Watts said these surveys gave the

staff a benchmark for what other libraries are doing. He added that this has been a trend over the last 8-10 years. If we allow food and drink we will not be doing something that is strange or unusual.

Ms. Payton asked if the staff looked at designated areas in their surveys to which Mr. Watts said yes. Ms. Payton asked for comments from the Board members. Ms. Wascom said in regard to a designated area, what would be an area in the Main Library besides the tables and chairs outside and at the branches. She wondered if these have been identified. Mr. Watts answered that at Main we have done it by exclusions. There are restrictions in the Children's area where we don't want children sharing peanuts or other allergic foods. We allow beverages and water. We do not allow food or drinks in Genealogy, in the Baton Rouge Room, in the quiet study room or at the patron computers. At any study/reading seat patrons can have their drink or snack such as a power bar.

Ms. Payton asked for libraries in the survey who specified designated areas, do we know what the designated areas are. Is it by exclusion or do they have a designated area? Ms. Stein replied that it was a little of both. Some had areas like we have here in the Teen area; the back of the area is the lounge and the front is off limits for food and drink. Some libraries had a lounge area such as a lobby. At the Lafayette Public Library they have a designated area where people can eat. Ms. Stein added some libraries restrict areas as we have been doing.

Mr. Leger said he did not realize how deep the staff's research had gone. He said he did his own research. He said he was generally in favor of the change before his and the staff's research based on what he wants out of the library and what he feels his peers want. He added that he received an email and possibly all of the Board members received it. It stated that he would be a failure if he allowed any food and drink in the library. Mr. Leger said when he received that email he thought that it was very strict language to use for this situation. He took a deeper look at the guidelines for public policy for professional associations and in the journals for public policy. The trend has overwhelmingly been that not only places like the library in the State of Louisiana, but nationally have already allowed this or are allowing this as the trend moves toward that. Mr. Leger said because of that, he is overwhelming in support of this change. It makes sense especially at the Main Library where we will have a café across the courtyard. He made a motion that the Board approves this change in the policy.

Ms. Payton said before we proceed with a vote, she wants to be sure we have time for other Board comments and comments from the public. Mr. Woodard said he would second the motion. Ms. Payton said she would like to ask for public comments. Then she will allow other Board comments before taking a vote.

Mr. Jim George, a member of the public, asked to speak. He said he is a tax payer. He added that he wanted to thank the Board for adding the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. Ms. Payton asked Mr. George to raise the microphone so that his comments can be recorded for the Metro 21 replay of the Board meeting. Mr. George asked Ms. Payton how long he may make a comment. She replied the policy is three minutes. He asked if he could have additional time to which Ms. Payton answered at the end of three minutes she would see.

Mr. George said his comments are not about a personal agenda. Because of his age of 81 and his life expectancy, he will not benefit from a decision to restrict food and drinks. He noted that this topic seems to be of a generational issue. He said he and others from the older generation can remember going to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library when there was only one facility. Water wasn't even allowed in the library, and bringing in fried chicken wasn't even considered. Mr. George said he is here for others.

He said he wanted to start with a time honored test for determining where something came from and is going. The phrase is "cui bono" or for whose benefit, use or good. It is appropriate here when considering this policy change. Mr. George added he did not know who sent the Board the email calling them a failure, but he said it wasn't he. He continued that the traditional rule is no food or drinks in the library. As of five years ago the Board said in its rules no food twice. He asked who benefits. There is one class of tax payers that does not benefit. He said he has heard from many of them after his letter to the editor of *The Advocate*. Mr. George said these people told him they were appalled that the Board would consider changing this rule. So they will not benefit from it. He said he would speculate that most of the library patrons would not benefit from this change because they would have the good taste and manners not to bring fried chicken into the library causing the disgusting scene he witnessed as they loudly consumed their meal.

Mr. George had spoken for three minutes and therefore, asked Ms. Payton for one or two more minutes to complete his remarks. She replied that he could have those extra minutes to finish his remarks.

He again asked who benefits. He asked if the Board benefits, and if so, how. Where is the benefit to the governing body of the Library? He added that he does not understand this, and neither do many in his generation. Does the staff benefit, and if so when? Apparently the staff will take on additional duties of cleaning up behind people who leave messes. Those are the kind of people who are not going to clean up after themselves. Mr. George then asked if the System benefits, and if so, how. You are opening yourselves up to possible increased liability risks which will have to be outlined and studied. If there are risks, they will need to be insured. He asked where that analysis is. The public is entitled to see it if it has been done. Mr. George asked about the health code and violations of it. Where is that analysis? He said he feels the Parish Attorney needs to review these issues, and the public needs to be told the outcome of this review. He concluded his remarks asking the Board to do something really bold which is to enforce their rule of no food or drinks in the Library. He thanked the Board. Ms. Payton thanked him for his remarks.

Ms. Payton asked for any other public comments. There were none. She said we have a motion and a second, so she asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Luther said he was against food in the library, especially fried chicken and all the trimmings. He added that he spoke to people on both sides of this issue. But he said he has not seen any problems. He toured the libraries to see if there was any significant damage and there wasn't. He added that he went to the Bluebonnet Regional Branch where the fried chicken fiasco occurred, and there were numerous signs that clearly stated the restrictions. The policy was amended five years ago, and the policy can be amended to reflect the proposed changes. Mr. Luther pointed out that the Board received a draft flyer outlining the changes. He also said that he could accept these changes as outlined in the

flyer. He agreed that as a child he was not allowed to bring any food or drinks into the Library. But he said during the summer when he went to the library, snacks were provided to him by the Library staff. Mr. Luther commented that regarding the health code, if the Library is not providing the food, there should be no issue for us. When a vendor opens the café across the plaza, they will need to abide by the health code. He concluded his comments saying he is in favor of making the changes so someone who is using good common sense can have a beverage like bottled water and a light snack as outlined in the flyer. He admitted that he has been sneaking in crackers to the Library his whole life, and he imagined he will continue to do so. Mr. Luther addressed Mr. George and told him they would need to agree to disagree on this policy. But he did say he did agree with Mr. George about prohibiting fried chicken.

Ms. Payton thanked Mr. Luther and asked for additional comments by the Board. Ms. Wascom said she did not do the type of research Mr. Leger did. But she did ask everyone at the meetings she attended what they thought about allowing food and drinks in the Library. The consensus of this informal survey was that they did not want the policy changed. Those that were uncertain said if food were allowed, it should be in a designated area. She added that a designated area was possibly similar to the area in a bookstore. Ms. Wascom said that is why she was asking about designated areas because we have an area outside of this Main Library. There may be other designated areas in other branches. She admitted that she is probably the oldest one on the Board, so she said she has feelings similar to Mr. George and her contemporaries. She added that those who are opposed to the change probably feel we have created a beautiful space at the Main Library and they don't want any of that diminished. Ms. Wascom said she likes the proposed changes outlined in the flyer because it talks about a designated area, but she is not ready to vote yes for the changes.

Ms. Payton asked if Ms. Wascom had a substitute motion. She did not. Ms. Payton then asked Ms. Johnson if she had any comments. Ms. Johnson said she did an informal study and most of the people she spoke to were against food for the same reasons that Ms. Wascom mentioned. Most were very afraid that if food was allowed in the beautiful library we've created, there would be cleaning problems such as having enough staff to clean, and the time it would take to make the library presentable when food is found. Based on the feedback she received, Ms. Johnson said she took that into consideration. The other concern was training all the staff. She was asked about those who would not want to follow the rules. Do we have measures in place for training our staff on what to say and for dismissing people who aren't following the rules? How are we approaching those who are breaking the rules and how are we reducing conflict in these situations? Ms. Johnson also said she could not speak to the health code, but did agree with Mr. Luther that if food is brought in she cannot see how we would be responsible for that. She added that she has mixed emotions about this issue. She would like to see how the staff will handle any inappropriateness by patrons. She does not want to create any conflict or stress for them. Ms. Johnson said she does not know if she is ready to make a decision on this issue.

Mr. Watts said he could clarify the concerns about enforcing the rules. We do have occasions when the staff intervenes when rules are not followed. If we don't see the problem, then we don't intervene. But we do have staff that is trained to intervene when a patron will not follow the rules. Our staff has been trained in active listening, and how to speak with the public. Most of the time there is not that much conflict in enforcing the Library rules. It's the 1% that may

create the issues, and that can be very stressful to everyone when that happens. The majority of our staff is very good at handling conflict and they know that comes with public service. Mr. Watts said we have approaches, procedures and training in place to help in these situations. He added that ultimately if someone does not comply, we can ask him to leave the Library.

Ms. Payton asked if there are any other comments on this item. She said we have a motion and a second to vote in favor of amending the *Rules of Behavior for Patrons* policy to include a limited restriction on beverages and food in Library facilities. She again asked if there were any other thoughts. Mr. Jacob said if we adopt this change now, and then problems occur, Mr. Watts can let us know. Then we can revisit the rules and change them again. Mr. Watts agreed. He said that is why in the guidelines flyer we indicated the following: “In those areas where there are recurring or persistent problems, the use of beverages and food may be restricted or eliminated based on the Library’s experience.” He noted we can prohibit food and beverages and enforce that change if persistent problems occur. Mr. Watts added that if the problems were widespread, we could ask for a rule change because that is the purpose of a policy.

Ms. Wascom then said she didn’t recall if we ever discussed the need for patrons to bring food into the library. It may be a trend and bookstores may allow that, but she said she did not know that there was a public initiative wanting this. Ms. Wascom asked Ms. Stein to explain the feedback that she received, and why this idea was made public. Ms. Stein said one of the main drivers was the fact that we have a place in which people want to stay for a long time. They stay for hours and want to drink their coffee and water while they study. They are here researching and working on their tablets; they are reading books. They don’t want to lose their spot. She added that we have people who come here every day, and consider this their office or their home away from home. They may be here for three to six hours at a time. They don’t want to be forced to stand outside or in a corner to quickly gulp down water. This is the number one use that we see. In the picture in the flyer we see a nursing student and a college student, and one has coffee and the other has water. One may have a power bar. The other does not. Ms. Stein added that we have been doing this here for 18 months. The building is as beautiful if not more so, as it was the day we opened.

Ms. Payton then said she thought a person who is here for six or seven hours using the Library as their office, is more inclined to bring in a hamburger because they are hungry. Ms. Stein replied that they would need to leave the building to get something hot. Ms. Payton wondered about what would happen when the café opens across the plaza. They will want to eat that in the library where they left their books. Ms. Stein replied that patrons who leave lose their spot by the time they return. Ms. Payton said if that is the case, one would think people lose their spot if they go to the rest room.

Mr. George asked if he would be allowed one minute to make an additional comment. Ms. Payton replied that she was sorry, but he already had six minutes earlier to make his comments. He said Ms. Wascom has brought up a point that many of his friends have made. These are very good patrons of the Library system, and good tax payers supporting the Library system. They are asking where and who has this idea come from. All of a sudden one cannot go and study or read in the Library without having Starbucks brought in. It’s an unusual phenomenon to many people.

Mr. Leger said we have a motion on the floor. We've had a lot of lively discussion, but we might want to take a vote. Ms. Payton said if Mr. Logan wishes to call the question that is fine. But there are still Board members making comments. Ms. Wascom said in her informal discussions, the people who wanted to bring in their coffee were LSU students and younger folks. So maybe it is a generational preference. This is what that generation is accustomed to, so she does understand it. Ms. Wascom said she still feels she does not want to change the policy on food and drinks. Perhaps we can look at designated areas where this would be allowed to separate food from most of the library.

Ms. Payton then said if there are no further comments, she would like to take a vote on this item. The Board voted. Those in favor were Mr. Jacob, Mr. Leger, Mr. Luther and Mr. Woodard. Those opposed were Ms. Johnson, Ms. Payton, and Ms. Wascom. With a vote of four in favor, and three opposed, the motion passed.

Ms. Payton then read the second portion of Item B referring to amending the *Rules of Behavior for Patrons* policy to include a clarification regarding furniture. She asked Mr. Watts to discuss this item. Mr. Watts said we realized we have a rule that says furniture cannot be moved. In our newer buildings and as we refurbish our older buildings, we are replacing some furniture with items that can be potentially moved by patrons in restricted areas. If there is a chair in a reading area it can be moved within that area, but it cannot be moved to a different area of the building. This amendment clarifies that some furniture should not be moved, but there is some that can be moved. Mr. Watts asked Ms. Payton if she wished to take Rule #11 and Rule #15 separately. Ms. Payton replied that they could be taken together. Mr. Watts said Rule #15 refers to people clustering around a table. We don't want that to become excessive in a general study area, but in areas that are expressly designed to be collaborative, people will cluster around a table. We are making an accommodation for that.

Ms. Payton asked if there are any Board comments. There were none. She then asked for public comments. There were no public comments. Ms. Payton asked for a motion. Mr. Woodard made a motion to approve the item in regard to the clarification about furniture in the Library. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wascom and unanimously approved. The motion passed.

Ms. Payton asked for Comments by the Board, Item VII.

VII. Comments by the Library Board of Control

Ms. Payton said she wished to again thank the ad hoc committee of Mr. Leger, Mr. Luther and Mr. Woodard for their wonderful work. She said she realizes that they had to take some extra time out of their busy schedules to meet and make the recommendation. She appreciates it.

Ms. Payton also congratulated the staff and the Board on the Rose Award for the Main Library at Goodwood.

There being no further comments, Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Woodard. The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Ms. Kizzy A. Payton, President

Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director