

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
FEBRUARY 18, 2016
4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2016

III. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR

- A. FINANCIAL REPORT
- B. SYSTEM REPORTS

IV. OTHER REPORTS

- A. RIVER CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY
- B. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS
- C. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TO VOTE TO SEND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY-PARISH ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FRAUD REDUCTION PROPOSAL - MR. SPENCER WATTS AND REPRESENTATIVE FROM CITY-PARISH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR A SITE FOR A SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY BY REAL ESTATE BROKER – MR. SPENCER WATTS

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

February 18, 2016

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, February 18, 2016. Ms. Kizzy Payton, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mrs. Martha Guarisco, Mr. Jason Jacob, Ms. Terrie Johnson, Mr. Logan Leger, Mr. Donald Luther, Jr., and Ms. Kathy Wascom. 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; Ms. Rhonda Pinsonat, Library Business Manager; Mr. Ronnie Pierce, Assistant Library Business Manager; Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; and Ms. Lea Anne Batson, Parish Attorney. Ms. Sonya Gordon, Library Public Relations Coordinator was absent from the meeting. Mr. Bryan Foreman, and Mr. Michael Smith, both Library Network Technicians I; Ms. Kathryn Juneau, Mr. Justin Langlois, and Mr. Steve Legendre, real estate brokers with Sperry Van Ness/Graham, Langlois & Legendre, LLC; Mr. Dirk Graeser, videographer for Metro 21; and one member of the public also attended.

Ms. Payton asked Ms. Johnson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Ms. Payton asked for the approval of the minutes of the regular Library Board meeting of January 21, 2016. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Johnson and approved unanimously.

III. Reports by the Director

A. Financial Reports

Ms. Payton asked Mr. Watts to present the reports. Mr. Watts asked Ms. Pinsonat to make the financial report. Ms. Pinsonat said that the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Encumbrances through January 31, 2016 show operating expenditures are 1,812,364.23 or 4.41% of the operating budget. Through January we should have spent no more than 8% of the operating budget. For 2015, we are still waiting for various final charges to be recorded by the Finance Department.

Cash collections from Property Taxes for 2016 remain positive, as we are approximately \$700,000 and 1.82% ahead of 2015.

Ms. Pinsonat 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 the systems report. Mr. Watts noted that this month Ms. Stein will present the monthly *Around the Parish* report and also a special 2015 Statistical Report for the Library system.

The following are highlights of the *Around the Parish* report:

- March 6-12 is designated as the 2016 Teen Tech Week. Special programs throughout the parish will provide opportunities for teens to create.
- Teen Tech Week is a national event that EBRPL has participated in for the last several years. Many projects will utilize Maker technology such as closed circuits, stop motion, and animation.
- Continuing education is critical for educators and librarians. The Library teamed with Knock Knock Children's Museum and the Foundation for EBR School System to host Practical Magic.
- Teachers received hands-on training with all types of materials such as circuit blocks and squishy circuits, series and parallel circuits, homemade Playdough, and hand held generators.
- STEM and STEAM based learning were combined in book-based engineering challenges in which children's books were chosen. A problem was identified in a story, and solved with technology.
- The library hosted the annual Debose Visual Arts Competition. The Awards ceremony was held at the Main Library. The Debose archive resides here.
- The children's art from the competition is displayed on the first and second floors through the end of March. Parents, both mothers and fathers, participated and enjoyed the art which included paintings, photos and sculpture. Some sculpture had working parts.
- The NAACP Image Awards Screening with our partner Cox occurred in the large meeting room at the Main Library. The evening was enjoyable, but also provided the opportunity for students to be awarded \$2,500 scholarships for writing 4-paragraph essays.
- The *One Book One Community* read of *Kingfish: The Reign of Huey P. Long* by Richard D. White, Jr. will kick off in the Plaza of the Main Library on Saturday, February 20th starting at 6:30 p.m.
- People are already discussing the book. One meeting was held in the Governor's Mansion in the solarium. Some participants in this group had personal knowledge of Mr. Long.

- Forum 35 is also discussing and supporting the book. They are an official sponsor of the program. *Kingfish* was the topic at their meeting this month at Juban's Restaurant.
- Local celebrities, like Donna Britt, Sharon Weston Broome, John Delgado, and Jay Ducote are reading the book. We also hosted an event downtown at Huey's.
- Following the Kick-off there will be many free programs. Richard White, the author of *Kingfish* will speak on Wednesday morning, March 9th at 10:30 at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library.
- Prof. Robert Mann, and Dr. Carl Freedman of LSU and Dr. Michael S. Martin of ULL will discuss "Long in Lit." on March 9th. Jim Engster will discuss Long's campaign machine vs. today's politics. In April Frank X. Mullen, a Chautauqua actor will portray Huey Long. Richard White will end the series with an after-hours event at the Main Library.

Ms. Stein then mentioned that the Library has been working with the Small Business Forum. The IRS will present a program for small business owners in March. We have been working with SCORE on topics such as franchising, and mentoring.

We will continue with our support of the *ConnectHome* program through the Mayor's Office, Cox Communications and HUD. The Library bookmobile and Reference staffs will participate in a *ConnectHome* sign-up event to be held on February 20th at the Ardenwood Village Apartments.

Ms. Stein reminded the Board about the program, *1,000 Books before Kindergarten*. The Library initiated the program on March 15, 2015. Since that time we have had a number of children with their parents and caregivers complete the program. We have invited the completers to a party in March to celebrate this accomplishment. We are especially pleased that Will Hillenbrand, the children's artist and author of *Off We Go* will be present to sign his book for each child who completed the program. Mr. Hillenbrand had given our Library permission to use his artwork in promoting this program. Ms. Stein also noted that after completing 250 books a small incentive such as stickers, a book bag or a poster is given to the child. The importance of this program is that it exposes children to at least 15 minutes of reading per day; a necessary requirement if a child is to be ready for school and for learning to read themselves. Reading one book per day to a child will complete the program in three years; reading three books per day to a child will complete the program in one year. It is not hard, and reading the same book more than once counts.

Ms. Stein then discussed the 2015 Statistical Report for the Library system. She noted that she has given the Board a one-page statistical report summarizing key indicators from 2010 through 2015. The numbers are up in every category by almost 18% (actually 17.6%) over 2014. She then said our visitor count is up 4%. The reference count is up dramatically at 11% as people have learned that accurate information is not always available through *Google*. Questions related to technology, to careers and to genealogy and local history have increased. This trend should continue.

The Library collection contains 2 million items. We want to be sure that we have the items that patrons want. As new non-fiction books are added to the collection, the outdated ones need to be removed in subjects such as travel, medicine, and science. If the collection is too large, it is difficult to find the books that are needed. Checkouts are up 7.7% and includes print, non-print and e-media. We have begun circulating Arduino kits, and braille board books. Ms. Stein added that the braille board books appear to be checked out by non-visually impaired patrons, too.

The Library continues to be a third space. Meeting rooms are in high demand and usage has increased by 60%. The collaborative study rooms at the Main Library and the Fairwood Branch were used by more than 32,000 patrons, exceeding expectations. As the Library goes forward with the Branch Assessment project improvements one of the most highly desired features was for meeting space. As meeting rooms are built in our older branches, these usage statistics will increase. Public meeting rooms were used 6,670 times in 2015.

Ms. Stein then said that program attendance has risen by 11% which is paralleling the rise in reference questions which is interesting since these measures do not usually follow each other so closely. We will watch this trend. Program events totaled 13,533. Storytimes presented in and outside the Library totaled 2,859. Computer classes taught numbered 785. Classes ranged from an introduction to computers, to using social media such as Facebook, to creating newsletters, to using Publisher and Excel. Some new offerings include Sketch Up, Tumblr and WordPress.

The Library presented over 3,530 regular programs such as Author Illustrator, the Mini Maker Faire[®], the Multi-Cultural Fest, the Bartram Trail Dedication, Rick Bragg and Authors Row. The Library hosted and directly conducted a total of 302 book club meetings this past year. We also host book clubs that are run by patrons. Our Teen Services staff conducted 1,317 book talks and research talks to middle and high school age students in the schools. The book talks focus on books such as those that are on the Young Readers Choice Awards list. The research talks are given on a topic such as literature, or opposing viewpoints as requested by the teacher.

Summer Reading numbers are up. Our Summer Reading offers successful programs for all ages and interests throughout the parish. Formal participation statistics showed 2,750 adults, 2,356 teens and 16,634 children enrolled. The Outreach bookmobile staff was able to sign up children that they visit regularly.

The Library supports passive programs to increase literacy in children. Stuffed dogs such as Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers can be found in Children's Services areas. Last year 806 young children read stories to these animal friends. This program began several years ago through a grant provided by Target Stores. It gives children confidence in reading because there is no correction, simply reading practice.

The Library supports literacy beginning with birth. New moms receive information about reading to their baby. A coupon entitles them to a free book, *Read to Your Bunny*, which is available at any of our facilities when they visit. Last year 605 parents picked up their copy. We emphasize the importance of reading to babies.

Ms. Stein then discussed the Library's archives. We have some wonderful new collections which include the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, the Krewe of Apollo, Istrouma High Alumni, and some of the works of Frank Hayden.

The Special Collections staff have conducted a monthly lecture series. They taught 52 classes and 11 patrons have earned the Genealogy Badge. Patrons have used the LAYAR app. The digital archive now includes 178,389 records. The genealogy and archival InfoGuides are the top resources along with the digital archive in our system.

Ms. Stein discussed Outreach Services. She said we have three bookmobiles, and smaller runner vans. They average over 100 pre-schools and day cares per month. At each visit they rotate 30 books. Outreach averages 53 retirement center visits each month. They make regular stops at the CATS terminal, and at the Salvation Army. Staff offered computer classes on a regular basis at the Salvation Army. These classes are vital because in order to seek employment one must have a digital presence and a résumé.

The Library also worked with Glen "Big Baby" Davis to install a new reading nook at the Carver Branch Library.

A new Outreach Service Facility has been purchased. Renovations are underway now.

Outreach Services also attends festivals, back to school events, block parties, and community expos with over 1.4 million interactions.

Ms. Stein then discussed the Library's special resources for students. Some of the most important resources help children when they are out of school. We started the Volumen Card project which provides e-cards for children who can't come to the Library. The Volumen card enables the child to access online resources from home on a computer or smartphone. This initiative provides the child with access to electronic resources from the Library. It is a first step toward expanding library service. We have issued over 7,000 computer use cards thus far through the school libraries.

The Career Center moved to the Main Library one year ago. The staff has scheduled many private appointments, conferences, and interviews. They have taught classes and held workshops, and attended job fairs. The value of this center is evident when a patron returns to say, "I got the job!"

In this digital world libraries provide access. There were more than 700,000 logins on our Library PCs, and our 24 early literacy stations in Children's Services. WiFi use rose significantly in 2015 with over a 50% increase, recording over a million logins to the Library's network. Patrons can login with their smartphones or tablets or laptops. The Library's Computer Services Division has enabled us to provide this access by upgrading our WiFi capability. As branches are renovated more patron computers are added.

Our digital library has strong use. Over a million records have been retrieved or viewed, over 5 million database searches, and over 27 million searches have been recorded. E-media was

downloaded over 300,000 times with an increase of 32%. We have added new databases such as Find My Past, the Business Reference Center and The Great Courses. We also upgraded the BRCityKey 3.0.

Ms. Stein noted that social media remains an important channel for library communication. Facebook is one of our important channels with 14,000 visits or views, but with a reach of over 600,000. The Library does a lively Pinterest business and Twitter continues to grow.

New projects are underway. The virtualization pilot at the Main Library was completed and will be rolled out to the branches this year. VOIP phone service was installed at the Main Library and will be expanded to the branches. We now offer public faxing at all branches. A mobile printing pilot program was tested at the Main Library. A refreshable Braille is available at the Main Library for our visually impaired patrons, so that they can make use of the Library's digital content.

Our website and digital library is undergoing an upgrade so that patrons can experience a more responsive design, and increased remote accessibility through mobile devices. Remote access has increased from 20 to 40 % in the last year.

Ms. Stein said that we have completed the strategic planning conversations which enabled us to conduct a successful Library tax millage campaign. We are now starting to make the findings and recommendations of the Branch Assessment Study a reality. The study contains an outline of upgrades and renovations for our older branches over the next 15 years.

The Library has also received many awards. We received a 5-star designation from *Library Journal* for our Library System and the services we provide. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have been mentioned in the *Index of Public Library Service*. The Main Library building was also designated as a Landmark Library by *Library Journal*, a Design Showcase Library by *American Libraries*, a Members' Choice Rose Award for Design Excellence by the AIA Baton Rouge, the 2015 Award Metal Roofing - New by *Metal Construction News*, and a top ranking in satisfaction among government agencies in *CityStats*. The *CityStats* satisfaction designation was given because of the excellent services we provide to our patrons.

The report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Stein asked for questions from the Board. Ms. Payton replied that this is a truly impressive document. She said she would like to see this information shared on social media, in press releases, and with the Metropolitan Council members. She said this document can provide many posts and infographics on social media. She added that the public needs to know about the services we continue to provide and expand upon. She noted that this report proves that if we build it, the patrons will come. Ms. Payton also said this is almost like a condensed annual report.

Ms. Stein agreed with Ms. Payton and she noted that our growth is part of the growth of the City. She said we have stories and we can easily share them through a new program that she can use for this purpose. This will be our next step.

Ms. Payton noted that we are only in February of 2016 and we have already released our statistics for 2015. She added that most organizations do not give data and statistics for the prior year until much later. She added that she is eager to see how the staff will share this information with the public.

Ms. Wascom then said it is exhausting and remarkable to see how much the Library has accomplished. She noted that the State had a literacy program for adults. She asked what our Library is doing to promote adult literacy and for ESL (English as a Second Language) patrons. She wondered if we were assisting in this effort through the Career Center or with an outside group. Ms. Stein noted that the Library partners with UpAlliance (formerly, Adult Literacy Advocates). They are also a formal partner with the One Book One Community program. They do not teach literacy classes at the Library because they have their own sites for that. UpAlliance, however, has used the Library's facilities for their program graduations. They have written books and have had their release parties here. Ms. Stein added that we have some teens who also have their release parties here. Some of our ESL clients have used our facilities also. She explained that the Library has expanded its Spanish language collection with new materials over the last two years. We have also worked with the groups that are involved in ESL education. Ms. Stein pointed out that the *Pronunciator* database has a special ESL component. The Library has worked with the Immigration Department out of New Orleans with new citizen displays. There is always room for improvement and expansion of services at the Library.

Ms. Johnson said she agrees with Ms. Payton. She said the report Ms. Stein presented is awesome. She noted it would be wonderful if we could correlate the increases in visitors and usage with the services that drew them to the Library. She said she'd like to see what technology is attracting people to use the Library's services.

Ms. Stein replied that we will be doing some small targeted surveys based on demographics to elicit that type of data. We hope to also collect some of the stories involved with the use of Library services. We have collected stories over the last two years as part of the strategic planning process, for the 75th Anniversary of the Library, and at the Dedication of the Main Library. Ms. Stein added that we also have photos. We will be working on cataloging these stories and photos in order to be able to use this collection to tell specific stories on given topics. We know we do good work, but it is important to tell others about the Library in a way that makes sense to them.

Ms. Stein asked for public comments. Mr. Justin Langlois, real estate broker with Sperry Van Ness/Graham, Langlois & Legendre, LLC asked if the Library has submitted an application for a Good Growth Award for our renovation project. He noted the awards are given every two years with award presentations made at a banquet in September. He added that the architects involved in the project can submit the application for us.

Ms. Payton asked for any additional comments. There being none, Ms. Payton read Item IV, A, and asked Mr. Watts to report.

IV. Other Reports

A. River Center Branch Library

Mr. Watts discussed the River Center Branch project. He said as the Board is aware, at the January 27th Metropolitan Council meeting, the Council deferred for one month the vote on a temporary location for the River Center Branch during demolition and construction of the new branch. They also deferred the vote to approve moving services to relocate the contents of the branch and also to relocate Outreach Services. At the Council meeting on Wednesday, February 24th, the Council will consider these items again.

For several Council members the cost of leasing downtown property was a concern. Mr. Watts noted that in discussions with those who are familiar with leasing costs downtown, the rental rate for our proposed facility is very reasonable. We had sent the all the Council members information several days before the meeting. Three members expressed opposition to setting up a temporary branch. One Council member expressed the desire to change the entire scope of the project. Mr. Watts said he did not believe this idea would gain any traction in light of the thousands of dollars that have been spent thus far on architectural services and construction document production. A commitment has been made. He explained that we need to work on presenting our case for the need of a temporary space for the River Center Branch.

He noted that several Council members wanted the Library to re-evaluate the sites we had already considered leasing. They also wanted us to consider other government agencies that might have available space, or something that the City-Parish owned and could possibly make available to us. Mr. Watts explained that we have done what we were asked to do. We worked hard on this and even spent an afternoon visiting the governmental building to review available space. Unfortunately, as we worked with the Department of Buildings and Grounds and with Mr. William Daniel of the Mayor's Office, we realized that either because of timelines, or the basic infrastructure, and functionality problems, these spaces would not provide the type of space we need. He gave the example of two empty spaces that, if adjacent, might have been acceptable. But one space was on one side of the building and the other was on the opposite side. There were long hallways in between with no ADA compliant facilities. In some spaces located above the first floor of the building, the elevator accessibility and the security concerns were evident. We want to maintain the same hours of operation offering evening and weekend services in the temporary location as we have now at the branch location.

Mr. Watts noted that as we talked again with other agencies they were very emphatic that they had no available space for the Library. They assured us that their lack of availability has not and will not change.

Mr. Watts told the Board that there are several approaches that we are using with the Metropolitan Council to justify our need for the leased space downtown. He said we will explain that the Library has done what the Council requested of us. He added that from the beginning of the planning for this project, we knew that we could not replicate a temporary site of the same size as the current building. This is why we looked for a smaller space that could deliver basic services and keep our presence available to the community. We want to provide technology, a

popular, accessible reading collection, be able to answer reference questions, and provide a place for patrons to work. The space we found is smaller than the branch, and therefore, there is a considerable saving in utilities and staffing. He noted that over a 12-month period we will save approximately \$381,000 in operational costs. Currently the utilities are over \$90,000 per year, and because of smaller staffing which will save approximately \$200,000 per year in personnel costs. It is apparent that even with the annual lease rate of \$175,000, we will realize considerable savings. Mr. Watts noted that the excess staff now at the branch will be re-assigned to other locations as we always experience a 6-8% vacancy rate throughout the system. He mentioned that there will also be savings on maintenance and cleaning services. He said even with the cost of temporary storage at approximately \$85,000, we will have a net savings of approximately \$121,000 per year. He said this results in no net increase in the budget for this temporary site. He said we hope this will make some of the Council members more comfortable with approving this expenditure.

Mr. Watts said we need to keep in mind that if this scenario happened at any of our other branches, in which an area would lose its library service for over two years, we would do whatever it took to provide a suitable temporary space for library service. Anything that we can afford and makes sense should be done for the patrons who depend on the library, and especially for those who are less affluent and the least mobile.

Mr. Watts also pointed out that we have been told by some that since the Carver Branch is only a mile and a half away from the River Center Branch, patrons can go there. However, that is not a feasible solution since Carver is a small neighborhood branch. Someone suggested expanding it to meet the River Center Branch need. There is no space or time to expand that branch for this purpose. At peak times the 12,000 square foot Carver Branch is at capacity. We assumed from the beginning that usage of the Carver Branch would increase by about 10% during the River Center Branch construction. Carver cannot increase its patron base by the 92,000 visits per year at the River Center Branch. Carver's gate count is already over 100,000 per year.

Mr. Watts added that there was some skepticism expressed about the number of patron visits to the River Center Branch. We reviewed and analyzed the number of computer logins we had. There were approximately 80 per day on the PCs and 120 wireless logins. These are patrons who enter their card numbers and actually use our network. These numbers would support that we have approximately 200 visitors per day. People do use the River Center Branch.

Ms. Payton asked how those numbers compare to one of our other smaller libraries. Mr. Watts answered that the technology statistics are somewhat similar at other branches. Ms. Payton replied that this would be another point to make in defense of our need for a temporary branch. Mr. Watts noted that these numbers cannot compare to the regionals, and Ms. Payton agreed. Mr. Watts added that some of the smaller branches may have higher statistics, but that is because those branches are better equipped with the infrastructure and the space for more computers for the technology patrons need. He also said the average login time on PCs is about 54 minutes at River Center. Library patrons are doing some substantial work on these computers.

Mr. Watts noted that the good news on this project is that the construction documents have gone to City-Parish Purchasing today. The first ad will be posted at the end of this month. The one

month deferral will delay the project a bit, but since there are no other alternate sites, our temporary site will need to be approved. Once the lease is approved and signed there are some improvements that will need to be completed before we can relocate. These improvements will take about six weeks.

Ms. Payton asked if we are going to convey this information to the Council before their meeting, or simply wait until the meeting. Mr. Watts replied that we are sending them packets tomorrow with the same points we just discussed here today. He said he has had the opportunity to speak with several of the Council members, and hopes to talk to two or three more. He added he had one scheduled for tomorrow, but it was changed to next week.

Ms. Payton asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Leger said one of their concerns seems to be the cost per square foot. He added that showing the Council the cost of other sites downtown may be helpful. Mr. Watts replied that we will provide in their packets of information a chart of about 14 commercial sites with the prices which will illustrate what the marketplace is like downtown.

Mr. Jacob asked what the contingency plan is if the approval of the lease does not occur. Mr. Watts replied that we need to proceed forward with the construction. We cannot allow this to prevent the new branch from being built. We will go back and look for another temporary site. He added that this would crystalize the problem and hopefully the public would demand that the Council do something. Of course, this would delay the project further, and increase our costs because we will need to relocate the materials in the River Center Branch to storage so that remediation can begin. Then when a temporary site would be located, items would need to be moved a second time. Mr. Watts emphasized that this scenario would cause a hardship for patrons downtown. We cannot allow a few to hold the entire project hostage because the approval of a temporary location fails.

Ms. Payton asked if we have the figures to show the Council the amount of money already spent to date on this project and how much would be lost if the project does not proceed. Mr. Watts said he wasn't sure we gave them that figure, but we could do that. Ms. Payton said she thinks it would be wise to have that figure available. They both agreed that contractually we are obligated for an even larger amount of money. Ms. Payton added that this would help the Council to see that what is at stake is a large amount of money, and that a change in the course of action would be very costly.

Mr. Leger asked if when the project was originally approved, was a temporary location part of the plan, and was the budget for that set aside. Mr. Watts answered that a temporary location is not normally part of the construction project costs. It is an operational expense. He said he believed it was probably given consideration by the staff because we know when we lose a building such as this, we need to provide a temporary site. Mr. Leger then said that since the smaller temporary site is less costly, the expense of the temporary location is not a direct cost to the Library. Mr. Watts agreed that in the end we will be slightly under the cost of a full branch operation. Even the moving costs, 40% of which is for moving Outreach Services, will not increase the cost.

Ms. Payton asked for additional questions. There being none, she thanked Mr. Watts. Then she read Item B and asked Ms. Husband to report.

B. Maintenance Report and Additional Capital Projects

Ms. Husband gave an update on the major maintenance projects. She reported that DPW is working on issuing a change order for the installation of the flooring at the Scotlandville Branch Library. The installation should begin at the end of the month and be completed during March. We are not going to replace the flooring at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch at this time. The renovation project for that branch is in process, and so the flooring will be included as part of the larger project.

Ms. Husband then discussed the renovation project at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library. The Circulation workroom is almost complete. The furniture has been installed, and the staff moved in last week. The temporary exterior book drop has been removed and the permanent in-wall book drop is in service. The Library Facilities staff installed shelving in the workroom. There are a couple of new displays near the workroom. The cabinets have been installed on one and they are working on the other.

The contractor is working on the old teen area, and has framed up four study rooms of various sizes. One room will accommodate twelve people while the other three will accommodate three to four patrons. The storefronts are scheduled to be installed on the study rooms this week.

The contractor has framed the opening into the Children's area.

The maker room in the new Teen Services area is almost completed. A manufacturing issue has caused the delay in completion of that room.

Ms. Husband also reported on the Carver Branch roof project. At the January 27th Metropolitan Council meeting acceptance of the low bid was approved. DPW received the contract from the Parish Attorney. It will be recorded and a purchase order will be issued. A pre-construction meeting will be called, followed by a notice to proceed.

The installation of the controls for the Scotlandville Energy Management project is continuing with project completion anticipated this week. The Zachary Energy Management Controls project bids were opened on February 3rd. We are awaiting a purchase order to begin the work.

Ms. Husband also reported on the remediation project at 3434 North Boulevard. The flooring has been painted. We are working on getting carpeting for several office areas. Interior painting began this week.

Ms. Husband then explained that the contract for the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library roof replacement project has been sent to the Parish Attorney. We are waiting for the approval of the contract.

Ms. Husband noted that we have a new project which is the Library Exterior Renovation project. It will include pressure washing, sealing, and reglazing windows and painting the exterior of the Carver, Central, Delmont Gardens, Eden Park, Scotlandville, Zachary and Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Libraries. The design project has been awarded to Bradley-Blewster & Associates. The architects will begin visiting these branches in preparation for planning the scope of work. When the scope of work is completed, the request for bids to complete the work can be issued.

Ms. Payton asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Ms. Payton moved on to Item C and asked Mr. Watts to report.

C. Miscellaneous Reports

Mr. Watts reported that yesterday afternoon we received the plans for replacing the pavers from the front entrance of the Main Library to the handicap parking adjacent to the drive-up window and book drop. He pointed out, on a drawing that illustrated where the changes would occur, that the pavers would be removed and a concrete walk would be poured. Patrons will be able to walk on a sidewalk from the handicap parking to the entrance of the library. If a patron is dropped off by car, there would be a limited number of pavers to cross and then the concrete sidewalk would be accessible. This design will be an improvement, and a way for patrons who have mobility issues to get to the entrance more easily. Mr. Watts said he has observed that those with walkers especially experience difficulties on the pavers.

He added that we sent our approval of the plans to DPW this morning. We are hopeful that the 4-day project can be accomplished the week before Easter with the removal of the pavers and the concrete pour scheduled for Good Friday when the Library is closed. Unlike the concrete in the parking lot, 24 hours will be sufficient time for the concrete to harden so that patrons can walk on it. If the work cannot be completed on those dates we will figure out an alternative to get this job finished. DPW Buildings and Grounds will now work on getting the project contracted out. Mr. Watts mentioned that Mr. Stephen Long is an architect that has just been hired by DPW to fill a position that has been vacant for over one year.

Mr. Watts also explained that the Library staff will be conducting surveys over the next couple of months on the fill rate and capacity for handicap spaces throughout the system. He said he is concerned that with the growing aging population, the Library may be facing a shortage of these spaces. If needed, we will add more spaces where possible.

Mr. Watts noted that good progress is occurring at the Outreach Services Facility on North Boulevard. Some of the epoxy has been applied and the Library Facilities staff like it for its resiliency. This week the interior walls are being painted.

Mr. Watts said he wanted to talk about tax forms. The IRS is only supplying the Library with Forms 1040, 1040EZ, and 1040A, and some instructions for those forms. The 1040 instructions were late in arriving this year. The IRS no longer provides the Library with a reproducible book.

Everything is available online and we can help patrons when they come to the Library to download what they need on a flash drive. Staff is willing and able to assist. Ms. Payton noted that patrons can order them online to be mailed to their homes. So staff can assist with that also. Mr. Watts agreed and pointed out that we no longer have the State tax forms, but they are also available online. He wanted to remind the public that the lack of these forms at the Library is not because we do not care, or haven't ordered them. This is a cost saving measure for the State and the federal governments.

Another concern occurred regarding the ACT practice test session at the Carver Branch Library on Saturday. Princeton Testing Service offers these practice tests for free. The tests were not delivered in spite of several calls to Princeton Testing by the Library staff. We were assured by them that the tests would arrive on time, however, they did not arrive until Monday. We do not know if the problem was caused by Princeton Testing or UPS. This situation is extremely distressing to the students and parents who planned for this opportunity. Most of the time when we work with partners the service or activity runs smoothly, but on occasion problems occur. We certainly hope this does not happen again.

Mr. Watts then mentioned that on Saturday, February 20th, a sign-up event for the ConnectHome program will be held at the Ardenwood Village Apartments. It will be a busy day with the One Book One Community Kick-Off event also scheduled for Saturday evening.

Ms. Payton asked if there were any questions. Ms. Wascom asked Mr. Watts if he has any information about a vendor to run the BREC café across the Plaza. Mr. Watts said we do not have any information. BREC was working with a third vendor, and had expressed great hope that a partnership could be established. But they were optimistic over the first two vendors. We have not heard any news in the last several weeks.

Ms. Payton also asked for any comments by the public on any of the reports. There were none, so Ms. Payton read Item V, A under New Business.

V. New Business

A. To Vote to Send Recommendation to City-Parish Administration Concerning Homestead Exemption Fraud Reduction Proposal - Mr. Spencer Watts and Representative from City-Parish Attorney's Office

Mr. Watts noted that we have Ms. Lee Anne Batson, the City-Parish Attorney here with us. Ms. Batson has volunteered to talk to the Board about the Homestead Exemption Fraud Reduction proposal. He said he has already informed the Board members of his conversation with her. He added that all of the taxing entities need to review the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and agree to be part of this effort in order for it to be presented to the Metropolitan Council for their vote. In the Library's case the governing body is the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Watts added that Ms. Batson and the Council members would like to know the opinion of the Board members.

Ms. Batson said she is here to find out if the Board is in favor, opposed, or makes no recommendation regarding this proposal, so she can advise the Council. The Council always wants the Board's feedback in a situation like this because this is the Library's money.

Mr. Leger asked if the vendor who would conduct the investigation was researched by the City-Parish and selected by them. Ms. Batson replied that the Tax Assessor's Office conducted the research. Mr. Watts noted that the Library staff gathered information and found that this company is a successful, well known company that has a good reputation. We did not do an in-depth investigation, but they are capable and reputable. Mr. Watts said we assume the Assessor balanced off cost with effectiveness, and determined this is the best choice for this work.

Ms. Batson said she is looking for a recommendation of the company the Assessor chose from the Board. The Metropolitan Council will need to sign off for the Library because the contract would be paid for with a portion of the funds that would otherwise go to the Library. Ms. Payton said that would be the 40% of the amount collected for the Library to which Ms. Batson agreed. Ms. Batson explained that we would be attempting to increase the tax rolls by removing homes that are improperly listed for a homestead exemption.

The company (Tax Management Associates (TMA)) uses Lexis Nexis and other such tools to find corporations, or people who reside in other states, or people who have two homestead exemptions. The Assessor's Office does not have the resources to do this research, so once TMA finds these fraudulent properties, they go back on the tax rolls at full value which increases the tax collection permanently. We are only paying 40% for the year they go back on the tax rolls. Ms. Payton pointed out that for the first year we will get 60% more than what we would have gotten. Ms. Batson noted that after the first year the Library would get the full amount permanently.

Mr. Leger asked if the other taxing authorities are going through the same process as the Library Board. Ms. Batson replied that this proposal has gotten to the School Board. The Metropolitan Council is the governing body for the Library, and the Mosquito Abatement Board. They will consider this proposal at their March meeting. Ms. Payton asked if the other advisory bodies have voted yet on this proposal to which Ms. Batson said the Library is the first to vote.

Mr. Luther asked if the investigation will go back to prior years to collect the additional taxes. Ms. Batson responded that they will go back only one year. It's a balancing policy decision to go back one year. Legally they could have gotten back as many as three years. In many cases it is simply a mistake. Mr. Luther also asked since the word fraud is in the proposal will they pursue criminal charges. Ms. Batson said this is not part of this contract. They do not mean fraud as in the criminal sense. It is focusing on double homestead exemptions or people claiming exemptions who are not legally entitled. We are not accusing anyone of fraud.

Mr. Luther asked if the 40% fee is standard. Ms. Batson said contingency contracts are generally 30-40%. Originally this contract proposed 30%, but TMA would not agree to that amount. As a rule generally they recover about 2% of the homestead exemptions they review as improper.

Ms. Payton asked if there were a motion by the Board. Mr. Leger said there is no need for the Library to miss out on potential revenue, especially since the Metropolitan Council will vote on this proposal. The Assessor has done the research to find the vendor to conduct the search. Mr. Leger made a motion that the Library Board recommend this proposal to the Metropolitan Council. Ms. Payton asked for a second which Mr. Luther gave. The Board members voted unanimously for the proposal.

Ms. Payton thanked Ms. Batson for her information and for coming to the Board meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Update on Search for a Site for a South Branch Library by Real Estate Broker – Mr. Spencer Watts

Ms. Kathryn Juneau, Mr. Justin Langlois, and Mr. Steve Legendre, real estate brokers with Sperry Van Ness/Graham, Langlois & Legendre, LLC. discussed their progress in finding a site for a south branch library over the last month. Mr. Langlois said they have gone back over their initial list of 30 sites and have added a few more sites. Many of the sites were too small or too large or the owners did not wish to sell. They put together a list of their favorites, and said they'd like some feedback from the Board either now or at a later meeting.

Mr. Langlois discussed the site on Moss Side Lane. It is located on the north side of Perkins Road very close to their office. The site has a turning lane on Perkins, and a signaled intersection at Perkins and Moss Side Lane. He said there may be some resistance to a library there from the neighbors. There is a railroad crossing close to the site which may prevent people from coming to the library at peak times. He added that the site is 3.6 acres and there are some low areas that are wetlands, and heavily wooded. It is across the street from the next site they have listed.

Mr. Langlois then discussed the site across the street from Moss Side Lane adjacent to the Rouzan TND. It is located on the east side of the Rouzan TND. It is different than the initial site that the Library was pursuing in Rouzan. He said they know the Library had a dialogue with the owner about this piece of land in the past. This site is different in that there is no discussion about the building having two points of entry which was a point of contention previously. This site is not in the middle of the property as it was in the Rouzan TND. Mr. Langlois noted there is a center turn lane there. There will be connectivity with the Rouzan TND near their major commercial component. He added that there may be some negativity about going back to a site that was previously vetted. Mr. Langlois said he likes this site because it is not on Burbank. He also said this site feels like it is independent and not part of someone else's highly dense retail and office site.

The third site under discussion is on West Lee Drive. It is further south than some of the prior sites on Burbank Drive. It was interesting to the brokers because it was initially proposed as a movie theatre. A portion could be sold as a three acre site although it is much larger. There are a lot of student housing complexes in this area with LSU in close proximity. This site is close to the Riverbend Subdivision, to Southdowns, and the proposed developments on Burbank Drive.

Mr. Langlois noted that the site is close to Mike Anderson's Restaurant. In speaking to the owners of the property, it is probably in the range of \$8-\$9 per square foot. The site would have accessibility on West Lee Drive with interconnectivity to a senior living complex which is being discussed now along with some retail. The corner of the property will remain a green site because it has wells on it. It will be a heavily landscaped buffer.

Mr. Langlois then pointed out a site on Perkins Road at Kenilworth Parkway. It is a site that was discussed previously. It is irregular in shape and becomes narrow toward the back of the property near the railroad tracks. It is as far to the east as the Library would consider to locate for a south branch. Mr. Luther asked about the current price for this property. Mr. Langlois replied he wasn't sure at this point. Years ago they looked at an out parcel closer to the front of the site for another client and the price was about \$15-\$16 per square foot. He mentioned he believes this site is owned by Dr. Andre Bruni, and it is listed now. Dr. Bruni is someone they could talk to about selling it.

Ms. Juneau then discussed a site on Burbank Drive which the owner is willing to sell to the Library. It is in front of single family homes with the expectation that the University Villas will be constructed near there. The site is four acres, but the owner will sell two if the Library is interested. He is open to an offer. He purchased the land five years ago, it is mitigated, and he has the documentation from the Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Payton asked for its location on Burbank Drive to which Ms. Juneau said it is 2-3 miles from Lee Drive. Mr. Watts asked how far away it is from Staring Lane. Ms. Juneau said she did not have the exact distance from Staring Lane. She added that it is near the Kenilworth Extension.

Mr. Langlois then said they have almost done a site-by-site analysis. The firm that was chosen by the Parish Assessor for their proposal discussed earlier was actually a tremendous help to them in this site search. Many of these sites are on the Assessor's website. He added they have been able to search block by block which is very useful in finding available land. Mr. Langlois then mentioned that there is a site for sale near Hood Avenue on Perkins Road. It is owned by Gordon & Sandifer and is close to Juban's Restaurant and the shopping center. It's an interesting site because it's bigger than an acre, and not encumbered by multiple tenants.

Mr. Langlois also explained that they reached out to the East Baton Rouge Parish School System regarding Southdowns and Valley Park Schools, but were told there are no plans to sell any portion of those properties.

Mr. Langlois said they would like some feedback from the Board. He asked if they would like to discuss it now or at a future meeting. He asked if they are missing anything, or is there anything else the Board would like from the brokers.

Mr. Watts asked about the sites on Burbank Drive closer to Lee Drive that the brokers had found. He wondered whether they could find some additional sites to the west of the one they just discussed. Mr. Langlois replied that they can do that. He added that we have a few that we are waiting on some data from the owners. Mr. Watts said this might give the Board more context about Burbank Drive.

Mr. Watts said he has already mentioned this to the Board. We might spend the next fifteen years looking endlessly for that perfect site on Perkins Road or Lee Drive and not find it. He said the Board might want to consider now a different approach which we've briefly discussed in the past.

Mr. Watts said one approach would be to build creatively in a way we have not previously done. For example, we could build a facility with multiple floors and a small footprint because the lot is small. It's not efficient, will cost more money to run and will need elevators and fire stairs, but we would finally provide library services. He added another suggestion would be to extend what we consider the eastern and western boundaries for the branch. Of course, we might then get too close to the Bluebonnet Regional Branch or the Carver Branch. Mr. Watts noted that we haven't looked heavily on Perkins Road between College Drive/Lee Drive and to the Perkins Road Overpass. He added that we should probably not consider property west of the overpass.

Ms. Wascom said she has given the Southside Civic Association an update on the search. The people on the Board including herself are residents who walk and bike in the neighborhood. They are not too thrilled about a library on Burbank Drive because they are concerned about the traffic. They wanted Ms. Wascom to share that with the Board. They are searching for a site and have made some suggestions. But we have already pursued the School Board and Pennington for example. Ms. Wascom said she will share what was presented today with the Southside Civic Association Board.

Ms. Wascom asked about the site adjacent to the Rouzan TND. She asked if that is owned by Tommy Spinosa. She added that at one point that site was for sale above the appraised value. Mr. Steve Legendre replied that the property sale is subject to an offer, and because of the development itself the appraisal would vary. If it is a mixed use development, the appraisal would be different than a vacant lot. He added it is a lot that has their interest. He said they do not know what the appraised value or asking price would be at this point. Ms. Wascom reminded the brokers that the Library cannot pay more than the appraised value for a site.

Ms. Wascom also asked how many acres is the property at Perkins Road and Kenilworth Parkway. Mr. Langlois replied that it is 2.79 acres. Mr. Langlois said he has some extra flyers that he can give Ms. Wascom.

Mr. Langlois then again discussed the site east of the Rouzan TND. He said when they see a site for sale and then activity stalls, the property needs a catalyst to move the sale along. He said the Library can be the catalyst. The best use of a property like that is not to fill it with retailers. Many people in that part of town are heading north to Goodwood or southeast to Bluebonnet. Mr. Langlois added that the site one to consider.

Ms. Wascom then asked about the site near Mike Anderson's Restaurant. She asked on which side of Lee Drive is the site to which Ms. Juneau replied on the same side as the restaurant. Ms. Wascom asked if there are rigs there and is oil being pumped there. Mr. Langlois replied affirmatively. They have been there for years, but one does not notice them because there are trees surrounding them. Ms. Wascom asked if there is a housing development there to which Mr. Langlois said yes.

Ms. Wascom then asked about the site on Moss Side Lane. She asked how close the site is to residential areas. Mr. Langlois replied that it is close to residential property. Houses surround it. He pointed out the entrance to the Pollard Estates Subdivision. He also said in terms of mitigation, and installing utilities on this site, it could require a tremendous amount of work before it is ready for the construction of a branch. Mr. Watts said he looked at the site a year and a half ago. It has standing water in it, and the elevation is low. He added a good portion of it is wetlands. Mr. Watts also mentioned that we are concerned about the proximity of the railroad tracks in front of the site.

Ms. Wascom said we also discussed the boundaries in the area that we travel. She said there is a vacant lot over the Perkins Road Overpass near Zeeland. She said she didn't know if the Board was interested in expanding to that area. Ms. Juneau asked if this is an area the Board would like to explore because the brokers can search there. Ms. Wascom said that area would be more conducive for people to walk to the library.

Mr. Legendre said it would be helpful to them if the Board would define the area to search and the size of the parcels to consider. Ms. Payton asked if the brokers had found smaller sites in their search. Mr. Legendre replied affirmatively. He noted they had not ruled these smaller sites out, and they have cataloged all these sites. These smaller sites did not meet the original minimum requirement of 2½ acres, so they did not present them to the Board. Ms. Payton said she herself would like to see some smaller sites because it seems that we will need to keep our minds open to other possibilities. Ms. Payton asked the staff if they could share some creative options for a branch that builds up on a smaller footprint rather than out. Mr. Watts replied that there are possibilities for that type of building. Ms. Payton also said that we have kept the residents of this area waiting for a very long time for a branch library. She noted that the budget we made six years ago is probably unrealistic now. She felt we would need to revisit the budget.

Mr. Watts then asked the Board if they would like to look at commercial spaces already built with the idea that we might find a space that we could long-term lease as a branch. Even if we found a space of 8,000-10,000 square feet which would be smaller than we originally planned, we could at least establish a branch, while continuing our search for a more permanent site. Mr. Watts added that finding a smaller site or a commercial building might be the two avenues that would result in a successful search.

Ms. Payton said she had expressed her thoughts and said she would open the discussion to the other Board members to get their opinions about this branch. Mr. Leger said he is interested in exploring alternate, more modern ideas for this facility. He noted that there are several branches in close proximity to this area that provide traditional types of service. Because of the population in this service area Mr. Leger said he felt something different would be accepted; maybe something with a smaller footprint. He also said he'd be interested in seeing 2 acre plots, and maybe not necessarily building vertically, which can be expensive, but building with a smaller footprint. If we consider something commercial we possibly could pick a site where the Library would have some synergy with the businesses around us.

Mr. Leger told the brokers that they have done a good job of selecting properties based on what the Board's criteria were. Some of the properties the brokers discussed are ones the Board has

already considered. He noted that the site adjacent to the Rouzan TND would be a good location for a traditional branch. The problem there is that we cannot pay above appraised value. With that location on Perkins Road there was never a doubt that they would not sell at appraised value. Mr. Leger added that he is interested in that property because it is right in the area where we wanted to locate a branch. Ms. Payton agreed.

Mr. Langlois replied that they reached out to the owner about a week ago, but price was not discussed. Mr. Luther said he'd really be interested in that site also. He said that we should ask the seller what they are planning to do and what the price would be. Mr. Langlois responded that they do work like this for other municipalities, for non-profits and for Boards. He added that locating in the Rouzan TND was a great concept, but there were problems such as the dual entrances and the book store concept made it too retail. Mr. Langlois said in discussions with Ms. Juneau and Mr. Legendre regarding the property adjacent to the Rouzan TND, there are some issues. The property is narrow and may require building a second floor. Even if the Library builds a multiple story branch, 2-2½ acres will be needed because of parking. The good news is that it is on a bus route. The walkability factor in that area is being worked out now. Construction at the front of the Rouzan TND has stalled while building setbacks are under discussion. Mr. Langlois also said he thought the Library could do something "cool and hip" right on Perkins Road. He added that he is willing to bet they could get the property at or below the appraised value. Mr. Leger replied that this would be interesting.

Mr. Jacob then said this is property that Mr. Tommy Spinosa owns. We pulled out of the donated property that he gave us in the Rouzan TND. Now we are going to consider paying him for some land. Mr. Jacob did not favor that idea. Mr. Leger then said this property would not come with all of the strings attached to the TND. He added that the whole saga was before his time, so he doesn't know all the problems the Board went through. But this property would be ours outright. Mr. Leger agreed with Mr. Jacob that it is a little strange to go back to the same individual who donated land which we declined, but now to buy land from him.

Ms. Payton said the Board worked a long time trying to make the donated site work for the Library. Mr. Watts reminded the Board that at one time a motion was made to buy this property adjacent to the Rouzan TND, but the motion died for lack of a second motion. He added the concern was exactly what Mr. Jacob expressed. The Board was concerned about the public and community reaction, and that some people would see it as almost absurd. Mr. Watts said Mr. Leger's ideas are good and rational. This is a whole different concept. The Board would buy the property and not be involved in all the restrictions of the TND. That's rationality, but not everyone will see it that way.

Ms. Payton added that there were many issues with the TND. Mr. Spinosa had some credit issues, and financial concerns. The project dragged on and on without an end. Mr. Langlois said they will ask Mr. Spinosa if he will donate the land to the Library. Mr. Luther agreed. Ms. Payton said it will be better if Mr. Langlois asks rather than the Board members.

Mr. Luther then pointed out that at one point we had donated property on West Lee Drive that we returned to the donor. He said we should not be afraid to ask for a donation. Mr. Langlois said the discussion about a donation involves a tax deduction for the donor. He added they have done

this in the past. We have seen a property appraised with a portion of it being donated. We can ask about a donation. Ms. Payton said she'd like to see what the cost is for that property. She also said the Board would like the brokers to provide some information on smaller properties including commercial sites. Mr. Langlois said they would aim toward smaller tracts, but not less than 1½ acres. The Board members agreed that 1½ acres should be the minimum size to pursue.

Mr. Leger said he'd be interested in alternative properties. Mr. Legendre said they have seen sites with buildings on them. These may be possibilities even if the Library had to demolish a building as part of the improvements to a site before constructing the branch. He added that the price of land on Perkins Road is not getting cheaper, and the longer the Board waits the higher the price will be.

Mr. Leger said he'd like the staff to show the Board what other library systems across the country do that is non-traditional. He added he'd like to see what an alternative branch might look like if it is multi-story, or is an unusual shape, or in a commercial area. Mr. Leger said he'd like to study how these concepts could be successful here. Mr. Watts replied that the biggest challenge when going to a commercial space is that there's not much that can be done about the exterior. In those cases one strives to make the interior very inviting and interesting so that once patrons visit they will come back.

Ms. Payton asked the brokers for printed copies of whatever they are going to show on the screen so that the Board can make notes on the copies and refer to them. Mr. Watts said yesterday he received what was shown today. He will forward a copy of the presentation to the Board via email.

Mr. Legendre asked the Board if a lease would be something they would consider. Ms. Payton said she was not very receptive to a lease. Mr. Leger said he would be very receptive to an alternative solution. Mr. Legendre said he asked because they may find a site on which the owner would build a branch library to suit the Board. The owner would not be interested in selling the property, but would agree to a long term lease. Ms. Juneau added that the owner could agree that after a specified number of years, the Library could buy the property. Mr. Legendre said if the owner would be agreeable, we could certainly negotiate for such an agreement. Ms. Johnson said this opens up many possibilities for the Board.

Mr. Watts then asked if the Board is interested in exploring a lease. Ms. Payton pointed out the Mr. Leger is interested. Ms. Payton confirmed that the Board is exploring everything now. Mr. Leger said we are not taking action today.

Ms. Payton asked if there were any more questions. There being no further Board comments, she thanked Ms. Juneau, Mr. Langlois, and Mr. Legendre for their presentation. She said that progress is being made.

VII. Comments by the Library Board of Control

Ms. Payton asked for comments from the Board. Ms. Wascom thanked Ms. Stein for her presentation of the extensive scope of what the Library provides to patrons. She noted that she would love to see a presentation made to the Metropolitan Council at a separate time to let them know about our services. She also said it was apparent at the Council meeting that they did not know how much the Library accomplishes. Ms. Wascom also noted that she is amazed at the maintenance report because she worked in a library that was falling apart, and was full of mold and mildew. We now have the ability to maintain the quality of the buildings throughout the system. It is amazing. She added that she does not think that our patrons in the downtown area should experience diminished services, just as our patrons in other parts of the parish would not want library services to be denied to them.

Ms. Payton said she would echo Ms. Wascom's comments. She added that she wants to see the flyer *2015 By the Numbers* shared with the public in their email, in their hands and electronically. She said we may only print a small number of flyers for distribution, but when we reach people in other ways, they will be pleasantly surprised to see what is available through their public library.

There being no further comments, Mr. Leger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jacob. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Ms. Kizzy A. Payton, President

Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director



East Baton Rouge Parish Library

2015 Output
Measures Are
UP in Every
Category ...
Almost **18%**
Over 2014

PEOPLE VISIT

**2,323,087 Visitors,
an increase of 4%**



**373,481 registered
cardholders**

& THEY ASK...



**Reference Questions
passed the 1 million
mark, up 11%.**

Multiple Formats:

New Microfilm Collections

Completed Digitization of the Advocate

Began Circulating Arduino Kits

New Braille Board Book Collection



Library Collection:
2 million items and growing, with special new archival collections

Checkouts = 2,761,471
print, non-print
& e-media...
an increase of 7.7%



The “Third Space”

- Public Meeting Rooms used 6,670 times in 2015
- Estimated attendance greater than 99,000
- Collaborative Study Rooms used by more than 32,000 patrons at Main Library and Fairwood Branch



**Meeting Rooms
in high demand**

**Group Study Room
use continues to
exceed expectations.**



- 2,859 Storytimes presented in & out of Library
- 785 Computer Classes taught
- 3,530 Regular Programs presented in the Library, including authors, lectures, workshops, concerts and performances
- Signature Events:
 - Author Illustrator Program
 - BR Mini Maker Faire®
 - Multi-Cultural Fest
 - Bartram Trail Dedication
 - Rick Bragg
 - Authors Row
- 302 Book Club Meetings sponsored & led by the Library
- 1,317 Book Talks & Research Talks presented to students in local schools

Program Attendance Tops 500,000

| |
|--|
| 13,533 Programmed Events held in and out of the Library... an increase of 11%. |
|--|

Summer Reading offers successful programs for all ages and interests



Formal Participation:

2,750 adults

2,356 teens

16,634 children



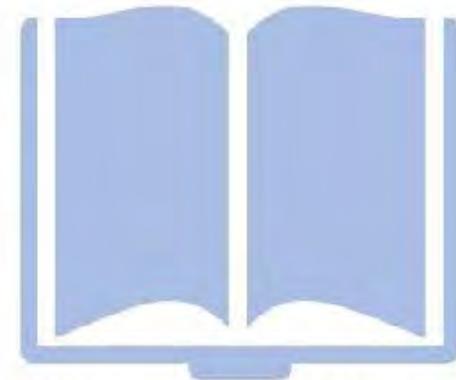
Plus hundreds of programs throughout the parish



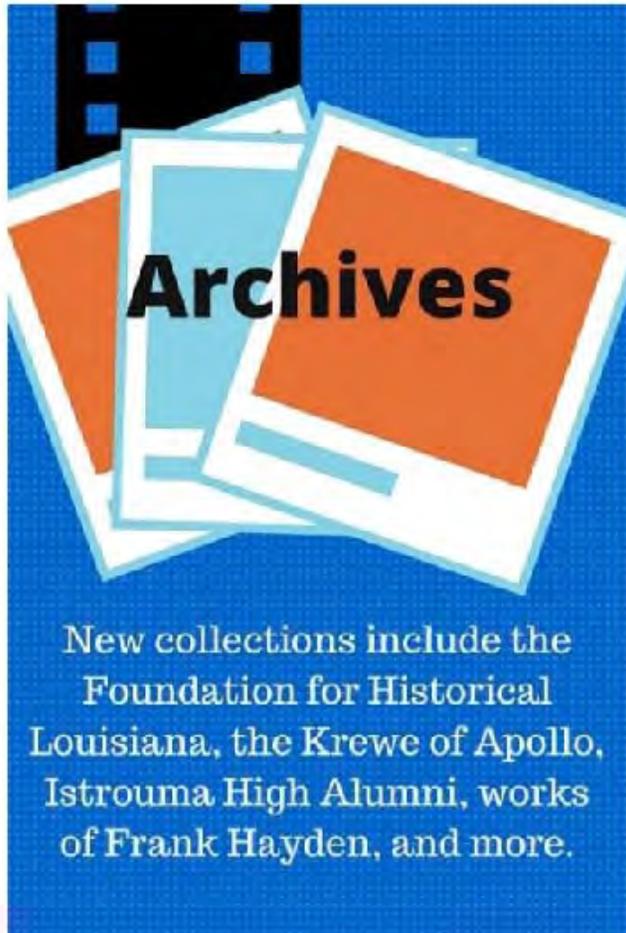
Supporting Literacy



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Program began in March.
2,200+ have signed up...
and +/- 50 have completed!

A graphic with a blue background. At the top left, there is a black film strip icon. Below it, three overlapping Polaroid-style photos are shown. The top photo is orange and has the word "Archives" written in bold black text. The middle photo is light blue, and the bottom photo is orange. Below the photos, there is a white text box with a blue border containing the following text:

New collections include the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, the Krewe of Apollo, Istrouma High Alumni, works of Frank Hayden, and more.

Special Programs:

BR Room Monthly Lecture Series

52 Classes were offered in 2015

11 Patrons earned Genealogy Badges

LAYAR app

Digital Archive now includes 178,389 records

New Genealogy Badge Program



Genealogy and Archival infoguides are top resources, along with Digital Archive.

- Average 98 Pre-schools and Day Care Centers each month, including books and story time
- Rotate collections of 30 books per visit
- Average 53 Retirement Centers each month
- Average 37 other visits or stops monthly
- 74,996 items circulated
- New this year: Computer Classes taught on a regular basis at Salvation Army
- Special Program: Booking It With Big Baby brought new reading nook to Carver Branch
- Purchased new Outreach Service Facility; renovations underway now

Outreach Services



1,184 Pre-school Visits
 1,863 Storytimes Performed
 636 Retirement Center Visits
 201 Regular Stops
 245 Community Expos / Events
 Over 1.4 million interactions

Special Resources for Students

- Homework LA's Tutor.com
- Artemis | Gale Group
- Explora | EBSCO Group
- Literati
- Access Science
- Scholastic Flix Databases
- Learning Express
- TumbleBooks
- World Book Online & Early World
- National Geographic Archives
- Kurzweil Firefly
- Statista
- CultureGrams



7,000+ computer-use
cards active in school
libraries parish-wide.



3,209 Conference Sessions
473 Private Appointments
1,446 Connections through
classes, outreach & job fairs

“I got the job!”

Personal service & workshops are
complemented with special resources:

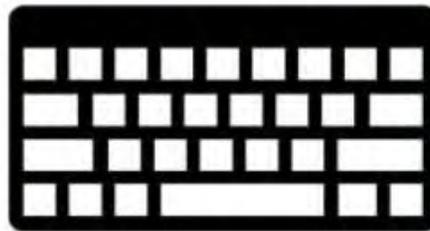
- Career Cruising
- Careers Internet
- Optimal Resumé
- Learning Express
- Financial Literacy
- Driving Test Practice Exams
- Gale Business Plans
- Career Center Homepage & Infoguide
- Rooms for Skype/Personal Interviews



EBRPL is working with Connect2Compete, HUD's Connect Home, and the Mayor's Office to help bridge the Digital Divide.



Patrons logged in via:
732 Library PCs
24 Early Literacy Stations



WiFi Use rose significantly in 2015, with 1,019,216 logins to the Library's network.



This is an increase of 54%.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

- 5,539,232 Database Sessions, up 51.55%
- 27,849,104 Searches
- 1,295,984 Records Retrieved or Viewed

Online Learning:

1,296 Gale Courses taken
7,952 Lynda.com sessions
2,997 Learning Express sessions
5,978 Safari Tech sessions
1,637 Atomic Learning sessions
12,404 Homework LA /Tutor.com

E-media Remains



UP 32% in downloads

New databases include:
Criterion Collection,
Find My Past,
Business Reference Center,
Science Reference Center,
Legal Info Reference Center,
History Reference Center,
Biography Reference Center,
Stanford Briefings,
ProCitizen,
Hobbies & Crafts Reference,
and The Great Courses.
New Artemis Interface.
Upgraded BRCityKey 3.0.



Digital Library offers important, reliable and convenient resources for students and adults of all ages & interests.

Social Media remains an important channel for library communication.



Facebook visits/views totalled 14,094 but reach was 662,662. Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, and InfoBlog remained active. Plus a second BR SocME Award!

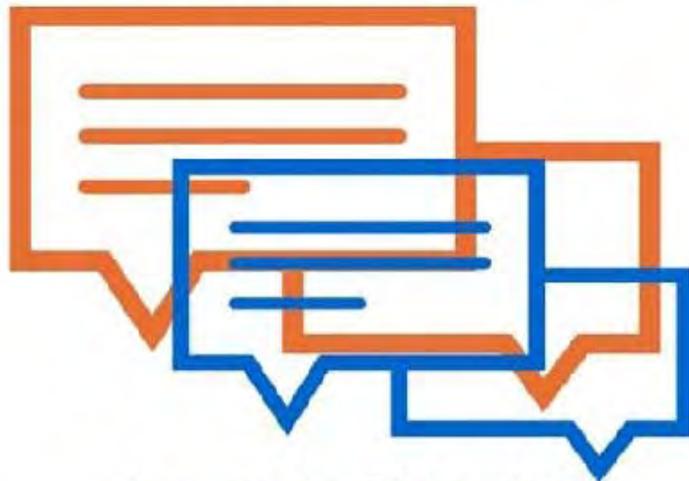
New Projects Underway:

- Virtualization pilot at Main Library
 - VOIP at Main Library; branches to follow
 - Public Faxing at all branches
 - Mobile Printing pilot at Main Library
 - Refreshable Braille at Main Library
-



Website & Digital Library:
remote access through mobile devices is rising

Let's talk...



**Strategic Planning
Conversations supported
successful Library
Millage Campaign.**



**Branch
Assessment Study
outlines plans
for next 15 years.**

Let's get started!



- New Main Library designated as a **Landmark Library** by *Library Journal*
- **Starred Library** for the fourth consecutive year – this time with **5 Stars** – in *Library Journal's* Index of Public Library Service
- **Design Showcase Library** by *American Libraries*
- AIA Baton Rouge **Members' Choice Rose Award for Design Excellence**
- *Metal Construction News* **2015 Award Metal Roofing - New**
- **Top Ranking** in satisfaction among government agencies in *City Stats*