

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
MARCH 16, 2017
4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2017

III. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR

- A. FINANCIAL REPORT
- B. SYSTEM REPORTS

IV. OTHER REPORTS

- A. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS
- B. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. STAFF REQUEST FOR THE BOARD TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POTENTIAL OR PROPOSED CAPITAL DONATIONS – MR. SPENCER WATTS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. UPDATE ON RIVER CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION – MR. SPENCER WATTS
- B. OPENING OF GREENWELL SPRINGS ROAD REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY ON MARCH 3, 2017 – MR. SPENCER WATTS AND MS. PATRICIA HUSBAND
- C. UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR A SITE FOR A SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – 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

March 16, 2017

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, March 16, 2017. Mr. Jason Jacob, President of the Board called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mrs. Martha Guarisco, Mr. Logan Leger, Mr. Donald Luther, Jr., and Ms. Kathy Wascom. Absent from the meeting were Ms. Terrie Johnson, and Ms. Kizzy Payton. 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; and Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director. Also present were Mr. Brian Foreman, Network Technician I, and Captain Blair Nicholson of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. In addition Mr. Frank Hillyard, videographer for Metro 21; and Ms. Lynn Bradley, architect with Bradley-Blewster & Associates were in attendance.

Mr. Jacob asked Ms. Guarisco to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Jacob asked Ms. Zozulin to take the roll which she did.

Mr. Jacob asked for the approval of the minutes of the regular Library Board meeting of February 16, 2017. Mr. Leger made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Wascom, and approved unanimously.

III. Reports by the Director

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Jacob asked Mr. Watts to present the reports. Mr. Watts asked Ms. Pinsonat to make the financial report. He stated that she has good news regarding cash collections and revenue. Ms. Pinsonat said for 2017, operating expenditures through February 28, 2017 are \$4,784,300.59, or approximately 11.44% of the operating budget. Through February, we should have spent no more than 17% of the operating budget.

Cash collections from Property Taxes for 2017 are effectively even with the same three months last year, as we are approximately \$4,800, and less than 1%, ahead of 2016. She noted that was good news and Mr. Jacob agreed.

Ms. Pinsonat asked if there were any questions about the financial statements. There were none,

Mr. Jacob then read Item B.

Mr. Luther arrived at 4:16 p.m.

B. System Reports

Mr. Watts asked Ms. Stein to give the systems report. Ms. Stein then gave the *Around the Parish* report. She noted that the Library has had some very successful programs this month. Highlights included:

- Mr. Corey Webster, former LSU and NFL football player visited our branches including stops with our Outreach staff to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Mr. Webster's rapport with children inspires them to read.
- An important initiative to encourage children to read is our participation in *1,000 Books before Kindergarten*. Children's author/illustrator, Mr. Will Hillenbrand attended our second annual party for children completing the program. He spoke and drew illustrations for our young patrons. Each child who reached the goal received an autographed copy of his book, *Off We Go!*
- To date 75 of our children have completed *1,000 Books before Kindergarten*. The Library encourages preschoolers to enjoy books and reading, and documenting progress is an important step in this process.
- The Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library reopened on March 3rd after repairs were completed following damage caused by the Flood in August 2016.
- Opening day was a joyful event for both patrons and staff who greeted each other as they reentered their library "home". Among the many preparations for the reopening was the installation of new computers in the commons area.
- In celebration of Women's Week, nationally known award winning author Ms. Elizabeth Berg spoke to a highly enthusiastic crowd of patrons on March 3rd at the Main Library.
- The Kilted Man, Mr. Matthew Gurnsey, performed traditional Irish and Scottish music using traditional Celtic instruments such as the bones and mandolin, concertina and bodhran. He entertained patrons at three of our libraries.
- On March 8th the Louisiana Library Association (LLA) awarded the 2017 Modisette Award to the East Baton Rouge Library Board member, Ms. Kizzy Payton, for Distinctive Service as a Public Library Trustee. Ms. Kathy Wascom also attended the luncheon.
- Ms. Payton has provided distinguished service as Library Board President guiding the Library through several challenging periods.
- The annual Authors' Row will be held on March 25th at the Jones Creek Regional Branch Library and will feature local Louisiana published authors.

- The 2017 One Book One Community read of Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi* continues with the showing of documentaries and films.

Ms. Stein then mentioned several additional events. The Library will be present at the Arts Council of Baton Rouge Ebb & Flow Festival downtown on the first weekend of April. Library staff will introduce Human Library based on the concept that everyone has a story to tell.

The Library will co-host The International William Bartram Trail Conference on March 25th. Last year a Bartram Trail marker was dedicated and placed in the plaza area of the Main Library to indicate one of the sites of the trail. Conference events will occur at the Main Library throughout the day with a keynote banquet in the large meeting room that evening.

The LSU Women's Glee Club will perform at the Main Library on Wednesday, March 22nd.

Ms. Stein noted that on Sunday, April 2nd, we will host All Paws on Deck which is a celebration of our animal friends. Several local animal alliances will be in attendance with a variety of activities such as a cancer survivors' parade, a cat fashion show, and classes on pet care.

The Library will host "Ship of Fools", an independent music group on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. It will be a fun event for the entire family. They performed a year and a half ago at our Library during the Wearable Art Fashion Show.

Ms. Stein announced that on April 8th we will work with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to host the Empty Bowls event. Those participating make a donation to the Food Bank and then share a bowl of soup.

The Library is continuing to work with the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge through the Listening Post program. To help ease tensions and promote understanding, this program offers a one hour respite to cultivate peace and calm. Participants are encouraged to calmly express themselves in a controlled setting. This program is being advertised on the Lamar digital billboards around Baton Rouge. This program dovetails with the Baton Rouge Respect Campaign, with Manners of the Heart and with Think BR, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's (BRAC) initiative.

On the first Saturday of April we will partner with Mayor Broome to support her new initiative, *Cleanup Your Block*. A number of civic organizations will also participate in this event.

Ms. Stein said that on Tuesday, March 14th the Main Library was the site for the Capital Region Planning Commission's Long Range Transportation Plan Open House. This event provided an opportunity for citizens to view plans for significant regional transportation projects and to provide feedback to the Commission regarding concerns and priorities including all aspects of transportation in the Capital region.

Ms. Stein concluded her report and asked for questions. Mr. Jacob then asked for comments by the Board or by the public. There being none, Mr. Jacob read Item A under Other Reports.

IV. Other Reports

A. Maintenance Report and Additional Capital Projects

Ms. Husband made her report on maintenance and capital projects. The Exterior Lighting Project for the Baker, Delmont Gardens, Eden Park, Scotlandville and Zachary Branch Libraries is continuing. Allrite Electric, the project contractor, has completed preparation work at the five library branches including researching conditions in regard to replacing wiring, and most concrete base work. They are scheduled to install light fixtures this month. A Construction Progress Meeting was held at the Eden Park Branch Library on Wednesday, March 8th. A visit to all five branches by the engineer and project manager and the Owner's representative verified that progress is consistent with the construction documents and specifications. Currently work is on schedule with a projected completion date in May 2017.

The Exterior Restoration Project (for the Carver, Central, Delmont Gardens, Eden Park, Greenwell Springs Road Regional, Scotlandville and Zachary Branch Libraries) is substantially complete at the Central, Greenwell Springs Road Regional, Scotlandville, and Zachary Branch Libraries. A few relatively minor punch list items remain for the contractor, Tasch, LLC to complete at these four branches. Work on the Eden Park and Delmont Gardens Branch Libraries is well underway. A Construction Progress Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7th at the Carver Branch Library where work has just begun. This project is presently on schedule with a completion date in May 2017.

Ms. Husband added that some adjustments were made at the Central and Zachary Branch Libraries to address drainage issues.

The flooring projects for the Central Branch and the Pride-Chaneyville Branch Library meeting rooms are in the process of being rebid. The City-Parish Purchasing Department has bid the flooring project for the Zachary Branch Library. Bid results are due on March 27th.

Ms. Husband asked if there were any questions.

There being no further comments, Mr. Jacob asked Mr. Watts to give the Miscellaneous Reports.

B. Miscellaneous Reports

Mr. Watts reported on the Broadband Initiative. With various parties who are also interested in improving technology throughout the City-Parish, we are working to arrange for consultants to assist us to produce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for both dark and light fiber options. Applying this technology could yield better telecommunications capabilities for the Library System presently and into the future. The consultant, Baller, Stokes & Lide can assist with the required complex cost/benefit formulations, and CTC Technology and Energy can assist as a technology consultant. Part of the urgency is that the FCC may be getting ready to change the regulations; thereby closing some of the availability of programmatic and funding support. We are hoping to complete the requirements before the deadline. Without this support, some broadband

enhancements may not be feasible for us. If we can obtain this support, we could implement a more robust telecommunications network for our Library System, and in turn, for our community.

Mr. Watts then discussed the renovation project for the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library. He introduced Ms. Lynn Bradley, architect with Bradley-Blewster & Associates, and said her firm has been working on the design for the project. On Monday, March 20th two public charrettes are scheduled from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. At the evening session a presentation will be made. Patrons will be able to view posters of the concept design, and speak with the architects and Library administrative staff. The community is encouraged to express their opinions on the design and provide input on what they would like this renovation to include.

Mr. Watts noted that the Board has received several drawings illustrating the evolution of the building design process. He projected a PDF of the proposed layout of key facility components focusing on adjacencies. He emphasized that we are at the beginning of concept design. The community's feedback on Monday will be critical to the direction taken for this project. Ideas and concepts may change over the next several weeks as we attempt to incorporate what the public would like for this regional branch.

The new features will be dynamic and engaging, offering the public what they have found most attractive, convenient, and helpful at the Main Library and at the Fairwood Branch. He pointed out some of the changes, features, and improvements this renovation will address. An adult quiet room, and a room for teens are planned. Mr. Watts noted that we have already received ideas from patrons. At this facility many teens are after school caregivers to young children. The teens want to be near these children yet they would like their own space separate from the children's area. We are trying to achieve this with low dividers between the children's and teens' areas. This concept will provide visibility yet will separate the two areas.

Conference and programming rooms are important features of the design. The quiet room will be located near the adult non-fiction area. The proposed five conference and study rooms, four programming rooms, as well as the quiet room are huge changes for this branch. Seating will include 72 lounge seats, 58 seats at tables and 59 seats at PCs. The conference rooms will contain seating for 30, the study rooms for 24, and the two meeting rooms which will remain in their current location will provide for 220 people at full capacity.

Mr. Watts said furniture will be new and enticing. Pod seating will provide a low cut study space permitting a degree of privacy yet allowing for visibility for patrons and staff. This design is important so that staff can respond to patrons needing assistance. In the teen programming room we are considering a rotating wall which can be opened for collaborative work, and closed for a defined program. He stated that the staff is very pleased with the work the architects have done, and how creative they have been. They have made spaces flow and work to obtain the most from the facility while providing new features. He added that we do not want to discuss details today. Once the charrettes have occurred and public input is incorporated into the schematic design process, a more detailed presentation to the Board will be made at the April or May Board meeting. We'll provide a traditional presentation of several slides and detail the more complex features for this renovation.

Mr. Watts asked the board if they had any questions. Ms. Wascom said in one of the photos of the proposed low shelving walls, it is labelled as tweens. She said she wished that we had a tween section. She hoped there could be such a section at this regional, but she didn't see one in the adjacencies diagram. Mr. Watts replied that possibly in the future a tweens section can be designed. Some tweens want to be in the teen area, other tweens are happy in the children's area, and still others want to visit both areas. It can be a difficult age group. The tweens have emerged over the last several years as a separate identifiable group with special needs. We do provide some programming for tweens. At this time we feel we are making progress by providing defined teen spaces. Initially teen spaces were an outgrowth of the children's area. There have been some remarkable achievements with that age group because of the ideas and work of the staff. The facilities have been an impediment where the space is not well defined. Mr. Watts hoped that one day we would evolve our services to provide a separate area for tweens.

Mr. Watts said we are pleased that the architects working on the Greenwell Springs Branch have understood our need to fast track this renovation in light of the damage from the August flood. It is our first priority because of what happened at this site last August, and that the building is currently only partially restored. We want to begin the new construction as soon as possible to totally restore this regional branch.

Mr. Watts explained that we are also working on the Jones Creek Regional Branch Library. However, we are at a different stage of the design process for this facility because there are some fundamental questions that need to be addressed. We hope to have more information on this project next month. In a couple of months, as we get more information and data about both projects, we will have separate agenda items for each.

We are making progress in other areas. We had a very good meeting with Mayor-President Broome on Monday, March 6th. We covered a variety of topics such as some elements of the Library's strategic plan, and our annual report. We talked specifically about the Greenwell Springs Regional Branch reopening. We also gave her the most current information on our capital plans for this facility. We talked about the Jones Creek Regional renovation and the progress on the River Center Branch. We discussed The Digital Learn Project and the fiber optic study and RFP, and also our participation in the Baton Rouge Bicentennial celebrations. Our time with the Mayor was helpful and productive.

Mr. Watts noted the Louisiana Library Association Conference occurred last week. We had good representation from our staff including Ms. Husband and Ms. Stein, and from other staff who were presenters at the Conference.

We are making progress on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with BREC for the Main Library and Independence Park. We will have a survey done in order to complete the subdivision of the Main Library and Independence Park. The survey will enable a plat to be designated so that BREC can obtain a separate address for their café building located across the plaza from the Main Library. BREC will need a separate address when they contract with a vendor for food service at the café.

Mr. Watts said the Bartram Trail Regional Conference is being held in Baton Rouge on

March 24 – 26th. We had a wonderful presentation last year here by Andrea Wolfe, and the dedication of the Bartram trail marker in front of the Main Library. This year an opening program and reception at Magnolia Mound will be held on Friday, the 24th. An all-day symposium with a number of presenters will be held at the Main Library on the 25th. That evening, a banquet is planned in the large conference room of the Library. These are ticketed activities. On Sunday field trips will be made to various venues to see the flora that are indigenous to this area. We are pleased to be associated with the LSU Hilltop Arboretum and the Bartram Trail project.

Mr. Watts then informed the Board about the sewer issue at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library. Sewer line repairs have created some difficulties including the loss of water and lights in the parking lot at this branch. About a year ago a sink hole occurred down the street from the Library. There have been other issues with the sewer lines running under Bluebonnet Boulevard. The City-Parish hired Allen & LeBlanc to remediate the problem. They have had to remove an oak tree and some cypress trees on our property near the right-of-way. The Library had no control over the removal of those trees. It was necessary for the greater good because the tree roots were interfering with an already compromised sewer line. As sewer line improvements are being made it can be a challenge. Ms. Husband said the water to the branch was restored today about 3:00 p.m. As a safety precaution, the deputy on duty has been escorting patrons to their vehicles until the lighting in the parking lot is addressed. Once this problem is corrected there should be fewer sewer backups for residents and businesses in this area.

Mr. Watts noted that recently a patron at the Main Library expressed concern about the pedestrian crossing next to the monumental sign at the entrance to the parking lot. She felt the sign could block the view as cars drove in and people walked across the designated area. We have not had any reports of problems, but we are studying the issue. We may use a vivid color for the pedestrian crossing so that it stands out. There might also be some signage we can use, but we do not want so many signs that people ignore all of them.

Mr. Jacob asked if the patron who noted the problem was simply driving into the parking lot, or did she have a problem. Mr. Watts said she did not have a specific problem herself. She may have witnessed some runners who were not paying attention to their surroundings. Mr. Jacob said he jogs around this area and he can understand why there could be an issue if one does not pay attention. He said he has never had a problem. Mr. Watts noted that some of the heaviest traffic occurs before the Library opens. He added that he has had more difficulty spotting people at the exit of the Independence Park Theatre parking lot because of the dappling effect of the trees.

Mr. Watts said due to a recent change in a legislative statute, minutes of public meetings must be published in the official journal in their entirety. We keep very complete and copious minutes, sometimes as long as 15 pages. We were told by another State agency that this regulation would not apply to the Library Board. This ruling applies to Boards or Commissions that are political subdivisions or creatures of the Legislature. Neither of these apply to the Library because the City-Parish Metropolitan Council is our governing body. The Parish Attorney has reviewed this matter. We asked the Parish Attorney's Office to research this statute and to inform us of their opinion regarding the publishing of Library Board minutes. The Parish Attorney confirmed that since the Metropolitan Council is the governing authority and the Library Board is not a fully independent body, the statute in question should not apply.

Mr. Watts noted that we are continuing to work on the addition of credit/debit cards as payment methods for Library patrons. We've looked at an independent approach, but that may not be allowable because of the City-Parish's banking contract. Using an independent approach, the basic fee charged per transaction is 20 cents plus a bank fee of 1½ to 2%. That rate would be better for a patron who only owes a small amount. The contracted approach by the City-Parish includes a convenience fee of 2.75%, or a minimum of \$1.00 for charges up to \$36.50. We would like to omit the basic charge using the independent approach. Again, we do not know if the City-Parish will allow this. If we could proceed with this method, then we would present the details to the Library Board for a discussion and a vote by the Board on this Library policy change. We do not want the credit card fees to be an impediment to people paying their fines. What we envision is if people could use a credit or debit card, we could clear small debts. For people who have larger debts such as a lost book, they may not have cash, but would use a card for payment of this debt. He noted that if fast food restaurants can accept credit and debit cards without charging additional fees, then the Library should also be able to absorb these fees as the cost of doing business, and as part of our overhead costs.

Mr. Watts told the Board that he was just informed that President Trump's proposed budget eliminates funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). One of the big impacts would be on the State Library of Louisiana which receives \$3.1 million out of their \$7.1 million budget per year through this program. If this proposal is carried out, it will have a huge impact on the State Library. At some point we may wish to urge our representatives in Congress to not eliminate this program which in terms of the total budget is a very small amount, but has proven benefits to libraries around the country.

Mr. Watts asked if there were any questions about the miscellaneous reports. Ms. Wascom asked if we access any services through the State Library. Mr. Watts replied that we use almost all of their services. We use their services for the e rate program, for some technology assistance, for the Summer Reading programs and for several database programs. The databases are provided to us through a cooperative program. We would feel the impact, but we could weather this much better than many of the mid-size to smaller libraries. For them this change will be devastating. For example, for technology concerns smaller systems count on the State Library. They do not have technology staff as we do. Ms. Wascom said if we don't have access to newspaper databases when we are doing research, it will be extremely difficult to do a complete search. Mr. Watts agreed, but he said we would try to replace some, if not all, of those types of resources ourselves. However, we would then not have a budget for other items in our collection development. Ms. Stein mentioned the homework help database, and Mr. Watts noted it is completely provided by the State Library. He added that if we attempt to purchase these services independently, we will not get the same discount that the State Library gets for a state-wide contract.

Mr. Jacob asked if there were any additional comments from the Board or comments from the public. There being none, Mr. Jacob read Item A under New Business.

V. New Business

A. Staff Request for the Board to Appoint a Committee to Review Potential or Proposed Capital Donations – Mr. Spencer Watts

Mr. Watts explained to the Board that the Library is at a point where individuals or companies may wish to make a substantial donation to the Library for some of our capital projects. There could also be a request for naming rights which the staff is now studying. We believe it would be helpful to have a committee from the Board so that the staff could present these requests. In the early stages of this process, it is good to get some Board input. In the beginning of discussions some donors want confidentiality in the event that their gift is not accepted by the Board. In some instances they may not want publicity until the donation is about to be finalized because of competing needs. They may not want the public to know how they are contributing until the details of the donation are agreed upon.

He added if there were a donor that would not be acceptable for the Library, we could dispense with further discussions through the input of the Board committee. Mr. Watts said we need the direction of the Library Board by the middle of the process. When we were ready to bring this request to the entire Board, the committee could make its report. A committee of two or three could assist as the potential donation takes shape. The committee could avoid the need to involve the entire Board every time someone mentions a possible gift.

He noted the timing of these gifts is important. Sometimes discussions span several months with little activity. Then suddenly the donor is ready to take action quickly. Mr. Watts said one that we are reviewing now actually began three years ago. Over those years interest changed, leadership of the company changed, and finally now they want to proceed.

Mr. Jacob asked if there were any comments by the Board. There being none, Mr. Jacob said he would like to appoint a committee consisting of Ms. Guarisco, Mr. Leger and Ms. Wascom. Mr. Watts thanked Mr. Jacob and those named to the committee. He said we believe we have one prospect for the committee's consideration.

Mr. Jacob thanked Mr. Watts and asked for comments from the public. There being none, he read Item A under Old Business.

VI. Old Business

A. Update on River Center Branch Library Construction – Mr. Spencer Watts

Mr. Watts discussed the River Center Branch project. He said that the slab was poured on February 21st. The pour was very successful and completed on time. Because of the location of the site in a crowded downtown area, the process occurred over night and was completed before any morning rush hour traffic began. The stress test results should be available shortly.

He reported that the steel erection is underway. On his March 6th inspection, Mr. Watts noted that the second floor beams were being attached, and floor mesh and rebar were in place in some areas. Mr. Matt Caillouet, project architect with WHLC, sent an email the other day stating that the steel

erection work is proceeding well. A top out could be completed as early as the second week of May. That would be the time when we would hold a traditional construction project ceremony to commemorate this milestone and to remind the public that we are making progress on this building. Of course, the Board members will be invited to be present for this event.

Mr. Watts said the location and place-marking of the downtown telecommunication lines are still an issue which we are trying to resolve with AT&T. The sanitary sewer line is partially collapsed and will need to be repaired. Cold Form Framing issues are causing some concern which could impact structural steel sequencing. By May they will be ready to install the Cold Form Framing, so they are working to quickly resolve these concerns. This framing will be used to hang the exterior panels of the structure. The rack issue has been resolved. Mr. Brian Thornhill, Library LAN administrator, suggested using some of the racks at the Outreach building that are not being used. He re-purposed the extra racks for the River Center Branch saving us about \$16,000.

The architects are seeking pricing on the Larson XL Silver Metallic cladding which has a Silversmith coloration with slightly more luster. Mr. Watts reminded the Board that last month we said there was another cladding choice at the site that was more lustrous and shiny. It's not like the white cladding, but is a little shiner than the Silversmith. We'll see how expensive this additional choice will be before making a decision.

Mr. Watts noted that there are always parapet and coping issues that need to be resolved on this type of construction. Some cladding and window abutment problems are also being resolved by making adjustments in the measurements.

We continue to receive and review the many submittals that are sent to us. Some of them include miscellaneous steel for elevator hoists, and beam anchors; main stairs and fire stairs drawings; overhead coiling doors for the server; tile for the floor, resilient flooring; access control system, video surveillance; fire alarm shop drawings; and lighting control system. The staffs from Branch Services, the Library Facilities Management and the Library IT are reviewing these and providing their assessments.

Other reports under review are requests for information regarding structural steel and weld testing; and supplemental instructions for grading and drainage modifications for the generator yard due to elevation issues. There may also be a conflict with the mechanical piping from the City Hall Greenspace Project going on next to the branch library construction site. The mechanical piping has been in place for years. Apparently some pilings are a concern. For this new project, there was a topographical survey, but not a deep ground survey.

Mr. Watts stated that the Multivista camera for the recording of the work on the job site has still not been installed. The camera we purchased cannot be mounted on the Beacon as we had hoped. Therefore, we are purchasing a new camera so that recording of the project can begin. At this stage of construction when the steel is being erected, it is very important that the work is documented.

Mr. Watts said overall the construction of the River Center Branch is going well and is on schedule. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jacob asked when the project is scheduled for

completion to which Mr. Watts replied between August and September of 2018. About 15 days have been added to the project timeline. He added that realistically events like tropical storms can extend the construction time by a couple of weeks.

Mr. Jacob thanked Mr. Watts, and then read Item B.

B. Opening of Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library on March 3, 2017 – Mr. Spencer Watts and Ms. Patricia Husband

Mr. Watts said Ms. Stein has already shown some photos of the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library. As part of the Library's messaging service, an email has been sent out entitled Rebuilding Together which is an invitation to the public to be part of the rebuilding of this branch. The charrettes on March 20th will be important milestone for patrons in that area.

The reopening on March 3rd was successful with good media coverage. Many expressed how happy they were to have their library opened again. The patrons need the materials and services we provide. Even though many are still working on their homes and have not yet returned to live in their homes, there are also many who have moved back home and who need their library. In just the few short days we have been opened, the Greenwell Springs Branch has circulated 1,154 items, we've had 650 online logins on the public PCs, and 15 meetings with 50 attendees. The branch is coming back to life.

Mr. Watts said that Ms. Husband will share some of the comments made by the patrons of this facility and some other observations about the branch. Ms. Husband announced that the staff will resume story time in April. They have had an adult fiction writers group of four people meet, and three people attended their book club. Given that the residents have not all moved back home, this attendance is good. Five people received flood assistance since the building has reopened, and we expect that number to increase. An adult fiction writers' workshop is planned for March 21st and the Baton Rouge Film Club will meet on March 28th. A snap circuit program is scheduled for the teens on March 25th. We are looking forward to people returning for these programs.

Ms. Husband said a staff member told her that a patron said it was like coming home to an old friend. It gives you a sense of normalcy. Another said this is "my" library. She had been to the Main Library and to the Fairwood Branch, and they were nice, but they weren't her library. They have a very strong sense of ownership and love for the library. Sometimes the people coming in just want to talk to the staff about their experience. The staff has done a good job of listening and allowing patrons to express themselves. One patron was walking around, not saying much. One of the staff began to talk about his flooding issues which encouraged her to open up. There has been a real sense of connection with the patrons who have returned. There have not been any complaints about the condition of the facility. Patrons are just happy the building is open.

Ms. Husband added that we are getting a quote for a large vinyl sign to place outside saying, "Welcome! We are Open!" Come in!" People who still do not realize we are open will see the sign. It is somewhat difficult to see that the branch is open when driving down the street. We are moving forward.

Mr. Jacob thanked Ms. Husband. He then asked for any comments. There being none, Mr. Jacob read Item C under Old Business.

C. Update on Search for a Site for a South Branch Library – Mr. Spencer Watts

Mr. Watts reported that although we are getting close to the time when the owners of the Quail Drive property said they would be ready to discuss a possible sale because they would have a better understanding of their timeline for construction of their new facility, we still do not have any more news about this property. He said we will ask the Parish Attorney to communicate again with their attorneys for an update.

He said Ms. Kathryn Juneau, real estate broker with Sperry Van Ness/Graham, Langlois & Legendre, LLC, had planned to attend this meeting. However, she is traveling and is stranded at an airport. Mr. Watts said the other property Ms. Juneau has discussed as a consideration is a new development under construction called Arlington Marketplace on the corner of West Lee Drive and Burbank Drive. He referred the Board to a rendering of this development. He pointed out three pieces of land adjacent to the proposed Rouse's grocery store that are currently available. One lot is about five to seven acres, the other two are 2.3 acres and 2.58 acres in size. He noted that the largest one is too expensive and too big for our needs. Ms. Juneau had told Mr. Watts that a large institution is interested in some of those lots. Because of this interest, Ms. Juneau has suggested we decide if we wish to pursue this possibility.

Mr. Watts said the 2.58 acre site could be acceptable for a branch. However, he mentioned that we do not know if the back of the property is low and may not be usable. All of our budgeted money plus several thousand dollars additionally could be spent to acquire this land unless the seller were to lower their asking price. The initial pricing was in the range of \$1 million. That is the negative side of this property. The positive features include that the land has been remediated, the connections are there for the development, and the preparatory work has been done. He added that we would need to confirm all of this before making a commitment. He also said that depending on the usability of the property, we might need to plan for a smaller footprint and build a second floor. We talked about this type of plan for the South Branch in the past. Ms. Husband said the Fairwood Branch Library is on 2.68 acres. Mr. Watts said it is really a tight fit at that branch. He told the Board that with three acres we would have sufficient area for a one story branch.

Mr. Watts asked the Board if they wished to express interest in this land. Mr. Leger said it is worth pursuing, and beginning a conversation. Since Rouse's made an announcement about plans for a grocery store there, the development is well underway. Mr. Watts agreed. He pointed out that there are some other food establishments in the vicinity. All of the properties in red on the rendering are already under contract. Mr. Leger talked about the secondary traffic light on West Lee Drive noting he did not recall seeing one there. He wondered if it was newly added. Mr. Watts replied that he did not know, but that it might be a proposed light. It would be important to find out if it is a light that has already been approved. Ms. Wascom said there would not be a traffic light there similar to the one on Quail Drive.

Ms. Wascom asked Mr. Watts if we are contacting the owners of the Quail Drive property. Mr. Watts replied that they have not contacted us even though we asked them to keep us informed when they are ready. He said we will ask them again to see if even if they aren't ready at this time, they can give us a more definitive timeline of when they will be selling.

Mr. Luther said he would like Ms. Juneau to pursue one or two of the properties at Arlington Marketplace to determine what the seller would offer the Library. Ms. Wascom said she would still like to pursue the Quail Drive site. It will have biking and walking access. The Arlington Marketplace will not be easy to access except by cars. Mr. Watts said we will pursue both properties more intensely over the next week. Mr. Luther asked if the owners of the West Lee property are the same ones who owned it 15 years ago. Mr. Watts replied that he thought there have been at least two new owners since then.

Mr. Watts asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Mr. Jacob asked for any additional comments. Mr. Luther said if the 2.58 acres is not of sufficient size possibly we could ask for a portion of the adjacent 5-acre site. Mr. Watts said maybe they could sell us three acres, and at a price lower than the 2.58 acres would cost. Mr. Leger added that the property will need to be appraised. Mr. Watts agreed and noted that we cannot buy the property for a price higher than the appraised value.

There were no other comments. Mr. Jacob thanked Mr. Watts.

VII. Comments by the Library Board of Control

Mr. Jacob asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Leger said he is very pleased that the Greenwell Springs Regional Branch is opened, and that citizens can use the branch again. He added it must be a very comforting sign for that community that it is coming back. He noted that he enjoyed seeing the schematic design drawings, and looks forward to seeing the public comments from the charrettes. There is a lot to like in this design especially all of the technology and maker spaces. He said he is excited and interested in seeing this project move forward.

Mr. Watts emphasized that if any Board members would like to attend the charrettes, they are invited and encouraged to come.

Ms. Wascom said it has been a recurring situation throughout the years that when we open a new branch, the community in that area identifies with that library. This occurred with the Carver Branch, and the Delmont Gardens Branch. The branch becomes the community's library and they become attached to it as part of their neighborhood. The branch also supports the neighborhood.

Mr. Luther said when Ms. Husband gets the quote for the "We are Open" sign for the Greenwell Springs Branch, he would like to know the cost because he may have a donor who could pay for it. He asked about the size. Ms. Husband said the sign would be about 4' x 8', and would be located close to the street for visibility by passing vehicles. The message would be simple.

Mr. Jacob thanked Ms. Guarisco, Mr. Leger and Ms. Wascom for being willing to serve on the committee for reviewing potential donations to the Library. He said there will be other opportunities in the future to serve on a committee.

Mr. Watts said that he wanted to emphasize that the approved minutes of the Library Board meetings are posted on the Library's website. We are glad to share our minutes with the public. They are not a secret. The recordings are also archived and available to the public.

Mr. Luther thanked Ms. Bradley for attending the Board meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Leger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Luther. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Mr. Jason Jacob, President

Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director