

MINUTES FOR THE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY AT GOODWOOD
THIRD FLOOR BOARD ROOM
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
SEPTEMBER 22, 2022
6:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL – Roll call was not officially taken; those in attendance included the following:

Jason Jacob, Board President – *Absent*
Candace Temple, Board Vice President – *Present*
Martha Stickle, Board Treasurer – *Present*
Delores Watts – *Absent*
Donald Luther, Jr. – *Present*
Kathy Wascom – *Present*
Nicole Allmon-Learson – *Present*

STAFF PRESENT – Spencer Watts, Library Director; Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director; Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director; Rosana Sotile, Assistant to the Deputy Library Director.

II. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION

A. OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION – Spencer Watts and Mary Stein (6:11 p.m.)

- Revision of the strategic plan began in 2019 with a community survey to accumulate feedback on the Library’s services and purpose; focus groups and meetings with consultants were subsequently held.
- No major changes from the previous version are expected; the new Library Director may want to revise it further; it is important to have an updated strategic plan, and to periodically review and adjust the plan; it is also important to have a current version as we approach a mileage renewal; citizens will want to be assured we have a plan for the maintenance and continued development of the Library.
- Mary Stein showed Board members a word cloud visual based on the survey results, which had over 1,100 responses; majority of responses were positive.
- Library consultants assisted with drafting the two-page introduction; includes “who is the Library.”

B. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS – Board members and Library staff

- Nicole Allmon-Learson commented that the mission statement indicates “who we are,” while the vision statement serves as a roadmap to become what you are; suggestion to provide additional explanation regarding the direction of the Library.
- Discussion regarding how to best reword several sentences in the vision statement, and which statement should be listed first; it was decided to list the mission statement first.
- Discussion on adding the word “literacy” to the vision statement and what it implies.
- Mary Stein explained why the words for Values were chosen; they were the most used words by Library staff in the survey.

C. GOALS AND STRATEGIES – Board members and Library staff

- Board members and Library staff reviewed each goal and discussed the concepts of the strategies; majority of changes made were to sentence structures and wording.
- Majority of board members suggested replacing the word “customer” with “patron.”
- Other noteworthy discussions included the following:
 - Discussion on whether or not to include the word “free”; suggestions on including “community investments” and acknowledging the vital support provided by tax payers.
 - Patron experiences with the Bookmobile and how to emphasize public appreciation for the Library
 - Rewording the statement regarding the Library’s collection; suggestions to include diverse interests; discussion on local issues at other libraries within the surrounding area
 - Expansion of the goals for the Library’s employees; suggestions to include staff development goals and adding a new section
- Mary Stein explained that she will make the edits and additions as a revised draft; will be made available to potential candidates for the Library Director position; the Board will vote to approve the revised draft during October’s regular board meeting.

III. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL – There were no further comments. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Mr. Jason Jacob, President

Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director

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.