

**AGENDA
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY
FIRST FLOOR SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM #102
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
June 18, 2025
4:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 15, 2025.
- III. SPECIAL ORDERS
- IV. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR
 - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - B. SYSTEM REPORTS
 - C. OTHER REPORTS
 - 1. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS
 - 2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS
- V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. UPDATE ON SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – MS. LORI JUGE AND MS. MARY STEIN
 - B. UPDATE ON SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY – MS. LORI JUGE
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. TO APPROVE UPDATES TO THE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN.
- VIII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

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 FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY
FIRST FLOOR SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM #102
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
JUNE 18, 2025
4:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – Board President Candace Temple (4:00 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Board Vice-President Donald Luther, Jr. (4:00 p.m.)

I. ROLL CALL – Antoinette Poland, Executive Assistant to the Library Director (4:00 p.m.)

Candace Temple, Board President – Present

Donald Luther, Jr., Board Vice President – Present

Kathy Wascom, Board Treasurer – Present

Delores Watts – Present

Ronnie Pierce – Present

Darryl Hurst – Absent

Nicole Allmon-Learson – Present

A quorum was present

STAFF PRESENT – Katrina Stokes, Library Director; Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director; Lori Juge, Assistant Library Director; Rhonda Pinsonat, Library Business Manager; Tanya Allison, Library Assistant Business Manager; Rosana Sotile, Assistant to the Deputy Library Director; Antoinette Poland, Executive Assistant to the Library Director

OTHER PRESENT: Frank Hillyard, Videographer.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 15, 2025 – Board President Candace Temple requested a motion to approve regular minutes of May 15, 2025. The motion to approve was made by the board. **The motion carried unanimously. (4:01 p.m.)**

III. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE STAINED GLASS ARTIST, MR. STEPHEN A. WILSON FOR HIS STAINED-GLASS INSTALLATION. (4:01 p.m.)

- Mr. Wilson discussed his career highlights; funding for his first major commission, his incorporation of clear glass with bevels and prisms from the original Centroplex Library installation.
- Mr. Wilson's designs are being used in coloring books with a QR code linking to library resources.
- Mr. Wilson's stain glass works are also at Bluebonnet Branch Library and Eden Park Branch Library

IV. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR (4:06 p.m.)

A. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs. Rhonda Pinsonat

- For 2025 operating expenditures through May 21st were 32.87% of the operating budget.
- Through May, the Library should have spent no more than 42% of the budget.
- A budget transfer to clean up several capital projects funds are currently being processed in Finance, so you will see changes in that schedule next month.
- Cash Collections from property taxes for 2025 are still ahead of those collected in 2024 by approximately 5.43% ahead of the same period last year.
- 425,000 was spent on cleaning supplies for all branches.
- Almost 61% of the advertising budget has been spent.

Mary Stein said the library secures some of its funding and revenue sources at the start of the year to secure contracts.

B. SYSTEM REPORTS – Ms. Mary Stein

“Around the Parish” slideshows and descriptions of Library programs.

- May events included:
- Scotlandville Branch Library Phase Two groundbreaking included library staff, board members, Mayor Sid Edwards, Councilman Darryl Hurst, and Councilman Anthony Kenney.
- The Baton Rouge Soul Food Festival was hosted for the second year with Henry Turner, Jr.
- On Memorial Day, the Parish Attorney and Marine Elena Branzaru with the Mayor’s Office on Veteran Affairs celebrated “The Wall of Honor and Valor” with images and stories of EBRP’s fallen soldiers. The event included music, spoken reminiscences related to the people commemorated at the event, as well as a trumpet player playing a rendition of “Taps.”
- In addition, the Baton Rouge Concert Band played facing the front lobby with State Climatologist and Meteorologist Jay Grimes as emcee.
- On May 31, the Civic Orchestra of Baton Rouge performed a free concert by volunteer musicians that was standing room only, with a visit from News Anchor Johnny Ahysen.
- On June 6 - 27, as a part of the Career Exploration Summer Series, the Main Library on Goodwood hosted Cool Careers every Friday in June, featuring NASA Space, King Crow Studios - XR Technology, FACES Lab - Forensics and Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Community College - Drones and Robotics. For more information register at www.ebrpl.com/career-center/events
- The Exonerated Exhibition will be on display through July with Sculptor Becky Gottsegen and others speaking on July 6. We have posted a QR code with a link to the website sharing the exonerated stories.
- Becky’s son will present his own documentary in August on the topic of Suicide.
- Zachary Branch Library highlighted student success with a photo of a Zachary High School graduate celebrating at the library.
- Special Collections continues programming looking back on The Destruction of Last Island. For more information visit <https://ebrpl.co/lastislandvideo>
- Sylvia Weatherspoon’s partnership with the Legacy Letter Project has also promoted the Seed Library and Movies on the Plaza, and who is apart of the Legacy Letter Project. For more information visit www.ebrpl.com
- In June, the Main Library continued its Summer Reading program with “Harvey Rabbit and Friends and Daisy the Reading Pig.” For more information call 225-231-3760 or your local branch.
- Movies on the Plaza continued attracting over 300 people; the movie schedule included, “The Wild Robot,” “Inside Out,” “Wish,” and “The Marbles.”
- The Summer Reading program includes The Linder Challenge where participants enjoy the challenge of visiting different libraries, completing passport maps, and celebrating including being dressed up in robes, crowns, tiaras, and helmets. For mor information please call 225-231-3750.
- On May 12, the Library of Things featured new programming - Speed Puzzling at Jones Creek, Fairwood and the Main Branch libraries where teams compete to complete 500-piece puzzles with the winning team finishing in 75 minutes and 47 seconds. For more information, contact 225-756-1140.
- On July 8, the Library will offer new “Small Business Engine” series featuring small business owners and entrepreneurs in partnership with the Alliance; workshops covered how to use the library resources and marketing platforms like Data Axle. For more information, please contact the Reference Department at the Main Library at Goodwood at 225-231-3750.
- Virtual Author Talk Series continues its programming with the addition of children and teen authors.
- On August 1, 2025, the Main Library at Goodwood will host the Louisiana Zine Fest.
- The Strictly Business virtual webinars continue with Episode 30, with guest speaker Tony Zanders, the new head of Nexus. To view archived shows or to register visit www.strictlybusiness.businessreport.com

- On July 12, from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m., the Main Library at Goodwood will host the 2nd Annual Neighbor Hood Fest with outdoor live music and indoor film screenings. Pre-Party July 10, 2025, at 7 p.m.- Midnight at Henry Turner’s Listening Room. For more information visit www.ebrpl.com
- Announced the October 18, 2025, Maker Faire, “Movie Magic” is the theme, centered around film and film industry creation which will cover how to make films, the business of film, and breaking it down, including foley, music, and sound effects. For more information visit www.ebrpl.co/makers
- On Sunday, July 27 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., there will be a Maker Meetup to answer questions about using Cricut and Sublimation. For more information register at www.ebrpl.co/events
- HiveClass is a database platform that has been re-marketed to show that this service applies to all ages and generations, including library staff, retirement centers, Sunday School teachers, and homeschoolers, on this interactive platform, you can learn pickle ball, soccer, mindfulness, and chair yoga, among other sports and wellness activities.

Board President Candace Temple commented on the need for social media promotion of the library services and databases.

Mary Stein commented that the library is planning to start a “Did You Know” series with the Library’s Campaign for Fall and that the council on Aging is already doing a “Did You Know” post.

- Mentioned that the library has created an informational PowerPoint, bookmark, and other materials.
- The Generations United PAC will be working on a campaign.
- The library is working on designing FAQ materials that will be simple, clear, and factual.

C. OTHER REPORTS

1. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS – Ms. Lori Juge

Maintenance Report for June 2025

The contract work that began in April for the painting of the curbs at all locations is complete. The South Branch Library and Bluebonnet Regional Library are the only two branches remaining to have curbs painted.

Limestone was installed around the chiller yard at the Central Branch Library to create a safe walking path.

Splash pad repairs have been completed at the Main Library just in time for the summer!

Air handler units are being refurbished at the Carver, Pride, Greenwell Springs, Baker, and Zachary Branch Libraries.

Emergency repairs were made to the chill water valve at the Eden Park Library.

A new fence was installed at the Eden Park Library next to the staff parking lot.

Miscellaneous Improvement Projects

1. Outreach
 - a. There is nothing new to report.
2. Multi-branch Project
 - a. There is nothing new to report.
3. Roofing Project
 - a. There is nothing new to report.
4. Boilers for Eden Park and Greenwell Springs Branch Libraries

- a. The project should go out for bid next month.
5. Bluebonnet Branch Library Renovations
 - a. We are still waiting for 2 quotes before repairs can begin on the Bluebonnet patio.
 - b. Library Administration is still discussing further renovations to the building, and we still plan to use the Facilities Master Plan to work with Architectural Services to compose a scope of work. All future renovations will depend on our available budget.
6. Chiller Project
 - a. The contractor is still working on the final punch list.
7. Baker Branch Renovation
 - a. The Library Administration is still working with Buildings and Grounds on forming a board to select an architect for the project.

Board President Candace Temple asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS – Ms. Katrina Stokes
 - On June 26, 2025, library 18 staff members including the Library Director herself attended the American Library Association Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - The library is starting a new contract with OOK Janitorial Service for all library branches.
 - The library is working on renewing their contract with Volunteers of America for Social Workers.
 - Fiscal year 2026, Budget Workshop was held Monday, June 23, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - South Branch Library dedication will be held Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 3 p.m.
 - The State Board Library exam was held on Friday, June 20.

Board President Candace Temple asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – There were no reports from committees.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (4:49 p.m.)

A. UPDATE ON SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – Ms. Lori Juge and Ms Mary Stein

South Branch Update - June 2025

1. The Metro Council voted to approve final acceptance on June 11, 2025.
2. The staff will continue to note any issues during the warranty period.
3. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for August 10, 2025, at 3 p.m. Formal invitations will be sent out next month.
4. In addition, the South Branch Manager, Patrick Abadie, was contacted by Ms. Chelsea Norris, Gallery Director for Ann Connelly Fine Art, because local artist Mr. Ed Pramuk wanted to donate a painting. We are still waiting to coordinate an installation date.

B. UPDATE ON SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY – Ms. Lori Juge

Scotlandville Branch Library Update - June 2025

- Demolition work is ongoing.

- There have been delays to sitework due to the weather. The contractor has indicated that some of the drill shafts are completed, and they are working on installing grade beams around the Black Heritage and Teen room additions.
- In addition, the necessary permits were received for the driveway expansion that will allow patrons and staff to enter and exit using the southeast parking lot. Currently, the southeast parking lot is designed to only allow you to exit and turn to the right. Until the driveway work is completed, staff and patrons are temporarily using Mengel Road to access the branch. The northwest parking lot will be used by contractors throughout the renovations. The contractor is waiting for the weather to be favorable to complete the work on the driveway.

Board President Candace Temple asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TO APPROVE UPDATES TO THE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN. – Candace Temple requested a motion to approve updates to the library’s 2025 Strategic Plan. A motion was made by the board to approve the Library’s 2025 Strategic Plan.
The motion carried unanimously. (4:53 p.m.)

VIII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL (4:53 p.m.)

There were no comments made by the library board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Board President Candace Temple requested a motion to adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. by unanimous vote.**