New Orleans Public Library
Board Meeting
Main Library Board Room
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
4:36 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order — (Board Chair Phala Kimbrough Mire 4:36 p.m.)

II. Roll Call — (Executive Assistant Tammy Hanson, 4:37 p.m.)
   Phala Kimbrough Mire, Board Chair- Present
   Vonda Flentroy-Rice, Vice-Chair- Arrived Late
   Laurance Eustis III, Secretary- Present
   Bernard Charbonnet- Not Present
   James K. Chassee- Present
   Raquel Dufauchard- Present
   Mary Moran- Arrived Late
   Andrea Neighbours- Present
   William Settoon- Present
   A quorum was present.
   Staff Present- Dr. Gabriel Morley, Tammy Hanson, Laura Bevins, Ross Matthews, April Martin, Kate Martin, Christina Bryant, Robin Goldblum, Rachel Keifer

III. Public Comments — (Phala Kimbrough Mire, 4:40 p.m.)
   A. Rachel Keifer, NOPL Training Coordinator introduced two of the five NOPL interns from Warren Easton High School. They will be shadowing staff in the POP program and the Administrative team from February 3rd through April 3rd.

IV. Approval of Consent Agendas — (Phala Kimbrough Mire/Dr. Gabriel Morley, 4:42 p.m.)
   A. A motion was made to approve the September 10th minutes with revisions and November 12th Regular Board Meeting Minutes by Larry Eustis III and seconded by Raquel Dufauchard. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

V. Information Items
   A. New NOPL Executive Director Dr. Gabriel M (Phala Kimbrough Mire, 4:43 p.m.)
      1. Dr. Morley was welcomed by the Board of Directors and gave a brief introduction on his priorities as the new City Librarian and aligning those with the Strategic Plan. Dr. Morley stressed the importance of legislative and community support, especially during adult literacy events.
2. The Central City branch had its soft opening and is currently open to the public but will hold an official ribbon cutting in March 2020 that will be announced at a later time.
3. Dr. Morley gave the Board an update on the Mid-City Branch clean-up. A significant number of our facilities need to be updated and we have a head start with the Mid-City Branch. Capital projects are being planned and prioritized.

B. 2019 Dashboard of Statistics/2019 Performance Report (Dr. Gabriel Morley, 4:44 p.m.)
   1. Both 4th Quarter and year end reports were presented. Some numbers increased while others decreased. As the Strategic Plan is developed, we can identify which items are priorities as defined by our patrons.

C. Executive Committee Meeting – (Phala Kimbrough Mire, 4:52 p.m.)
   1. Dr. Morley and the Board Chair met with Mayor Cantrell and her team regarding the millage campaign. The city would like to dissolve the individual five separate millages and combine all six department millages into one. The City would then determine what percentage each department acquires.
   2. The capital request regarding the move of the NOPL archives was delayed with the City cyber-attack but is still on the agenda.
   3. There is concern that a combined millage will not be in the best interest of the library, but John Chratska (EveryLibrary) will be consulted on how best to proceed with these changes.

D. Committee Assignments – (Phala Kimbrough Mire, 5:13 p.m.)
   1. The Board Chair will determine individual areas of expertise and make committee assignments accordingly. There are possibly two Board seats that need to be filled and committee assignments will continue as is until those roles are filled.

VI. Discussion Items
   A. Review of December 30th Special Board Meeting Minutes (5:16 p.m.)
      1. This item was tabled
      2. There was discussion of whether the Friends of the NOPL should be added to every Board agenda so they can present to the Board of Directors.
   B. Foundation update (Phala Kimbrough Mire/ Foundation President Barbara Waiters, 5:16 p.m.)
      1. The City Attorney’s office is still evaluating the files given them by the Board and are requesting Foundation meeting minutes from 2013. Because the Foundation is an independent entity, the City Attorney feels that they can use the Library name; however, we need to send them an additional statute regarding this issue.
      2. Barbara Waiters (Foundation President) updated the Board on the Foundations finances. As of December 2019 the account balance has increased by almost $53,938 making the account total close to $1.3 million. The net income of the account was $61,232.80 NOPLF operating at a profit.
Tax are currently being filed. The Foundation has not actively pursued fundraising and has eliminated all paid staff to remain financially sustainable.

3. Waiters and the Board discussed ways to move forward and work together for a common goal while complying with any legal implications. All need to be prepared for the upcoming trial and any questions that it may bring.

VII. Adjournment – The Board Chair Phala Kimbrough Mire requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. That motion was made by Laurance Eustis and seconded by William Settoon. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The February 11, 2020 meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Approved: 
Secretary, Laurance Eustis III

Date: 3/10/2020