



**New Orleans Public Library**  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Third Floor Conference Room  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
4:30 p.m.

**NOTE REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The legal purpose of open meetings is to allow individuals to observe and participate in the deliberations of public bodies. Meetings of public bodies must be open to the public unless closed pursuant to a statutory exception, such as set forth in R.S. 42:16 – 42:18, which authorizes closed executive sessions. Public bodies must provide an opportunity for public comment prior to action on the agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. The governing body may adopt reasonable rules and restrictions regarding the comment period. R.S. 42:14, requires each public body, except school boards, conducting a meeting that is subject to the notice requirement of R.S. 42:19(A), to allow a public comment period prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken.

**\*PUBLIC COMMENT IS LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES PER INDIVIDUAL\***

**NOTICE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING:**

This meeting is being conducted via teleconference per Executive Order 59-JBE-2020 Section 2.C, which states: “All state agencies, boards and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state shall continue to provide for attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference and such attendance shall be allowed during the pendency of this emergency. All efforts shall be made to provide for observation and input by members of the public. Before any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the state agency, boards and commission, or local political subdivision of the state shall first provide a written certification that it will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Such certification shall be posted at the same time and in the same manner as the agenda for the meeting. Nothing in this order shall be interpreted to waive any notice requirements.”

**AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order**
  - A. Committee Chair, Vonda Flentroy-Rice called the September 7th Executive Committee to order at 4:39 p.m.
  
- II. **Roll Call — (4:40 p.m.)**

**Members Present:** Vonda Flentroy-Rice, Dana Henry, Andrea Neighbours, Kathleen Coverick

**Staff Present:** Dr. Gabriel Morley, Tammy Hanson, Michel Thompson

III. **Public Comments** — (4:41 p.m.)

No public comments were made.

IV. **Executive Director Update** – (4:45 p.m.)

- A. Dr. Morley updated the committee on Hurricane Ida. Windows need to be repaired at Main and Mid-City branches. A tree crushed a vehicle parked at the Latter branch and we are trying to locate the owner. The City's capital project team has inspected all library buildings and damages will be part of the larger City's FEMA package. All libraries have power except for Alvar. Some staff did not evacuate and we were able to open three libraries after the storm. Staff has been on civil leave since the storm, but will return as scheduled on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The three branches not opening are Nix, Mid-City, and Alvar. The Archives did not incur any damages.
- B. The millage committee has contacted John Chrastka and will likely meet the third week in September.
- C. Dr. Morley emailed all board members a draft of the slide deck for review and prepare for a possible meeting with BGR on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- D. RTA proposed a plan to build a new transfer station and move pickup/drop-off points to areas surrounding the Main library. This will result in more RTA benches and shelters surrounding the library and will increase passenger safety. There will also be an on-site manager station nearby. RTA is awaiting grant money. The proposed completion date is January 2022.
- E. Ms. Neighbours asked if any structures will block access to the Main library and if it would not be beneficial to have the bus stops on Gravier Street. Dr. Morley responded that it is an issue of bus route efficiency.
- F. Ms. Flentroy-Rice asked if RTA has been in communication with community members (particularly our library patrons) about the changes. Dr. Morley responded that yes, RTA prepared a communications plan months ago. Our marketing department will send an email to all patrons late this year.
- G. Ms. Neighbours asked if a pilot program where we could try the new route changes for a month prior to full commitment. Dr. Morley responded that due to the large investment of resources, it would be difficult, but he will contact the RTA project manager.
- H. Ms. Neighbours spoke to an RTA staff who proposed sharing resources. She asked if we can get a written commitment of what programs and services would be shared. Dr. Morley will ask and update the board.

V. **Finance Committee Update** – (5:04 p.m.)

- A. Ms. Thompson entered the 2022 budget into the system and noted the budget department about any discrepancies due to errors in job titles. The personnel budget has increased since June and she is working to reconcile any disparities. She can make changes to the operational budget after the board's approval. She expects the City Council to pass the 2022 budget.

VI. **Millage Update** – (Vonda Flentroy-Rice, 3 minutes)

- A. The Millage Committee met to formulate a plan and establish community partners. They discussed what needs to be done and how much money needs to be raised

prior to the fall election. Due to Hurricane Ida, John Chrastka was unable to meet in person; however, the committee was able to prepare for the BGR meeting and view the slide deck.

- B. Ms. Flentroy-Rice asked if a virtual meeting with Mr. Chrastka would help get back on our timeline. Mr. Henry is going to work on scheduling a virtual meeting. The Millage Committee is meeting this week so perhaps the meetings can be combined.
- C. Dr. Morley asked if Mr. Chrastka to meet with the entire board or only the Millage Committee and Ms. Flentroy-Rice responded that meeting with the Millage Committee initially would be best. Ms. Flentroy-Rice will contact BGR for possible meeting times for next week.

VII. **Review of Regular Board Agenda – (5:23 p.m.)**

- A. No changes were made to the draft agenda.
- B. Ms. Neighbours discussed whether there is confusion about the Strategic Plan being viewed as separate from our basic services. Ms. Coverick thinks the budget will help to clarify any confusion. Ms. Neighbours thinks the basic services should be included when we discuss the Strategic Plan at the meeting with BRG. Others concurred.

VIII. **Adjournment**

- A. Ms. Coverick made a motion to adjourn and motion was seconded by Ms. Neighbours. Motion passed unanimously and the September 7, 2021 Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.