**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**STATE LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

State Library of Louisiana

701 North Fourth Street

Baton Rouge, La

5th Floor Capitol View Room

Thursday, September 7, 2023

9:45 a.m.

**Members Present**: Georgia Brown, Marian Fertitta, Darryl Gissel, James Lee, Chair, Christy Reeves, Dorothy White, Acting Secretary

**Members Absent**: Nicole Allmon-Learson

**DCRT Staff Present:** Julie Chapman

**I. Call to Order**

James Lee called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. with a motion by Christy Reeves and seconded by Georgia Brown. The motion to open the meeting was unanimously approved.

**II. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

James Lee asked for a motion to approve the agenda, which was made by Christy Reeves and seconded by Darryl Gissel. The motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from the Quarterly Meeting held June 15, 2023**

James Lee asked Dorothy White to read the minutes from the previous meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Marian Fertitta and seconded by Darryl Gissel. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

**V. State Librarian Search Plan Amendment**

James Lee thanked Dorothy White for her work on the search process. He discussed the proposed State Librarian Search Plan Amendment. When the Board approved the Search Plan, the Board did not know how many candidates would apply. In the Plan, the Board anticipated that it would be necessary to conduct two rounds of interviews, with elimination of candidates in the first round. Four candidates qualified for the position, but two applicants withdrew after their interviews had been set up. Mr. Lee asked that the Board amend the Search Plan. Dorothy White made a motion to amend the Search Plan to add that if the Board is in agreement to select a State Librarian after the first round of interviews, the second round of interviews may be eliminated. This was seconded by Christy Reeves, and the motion to amend the Search Plan was unanimously approved.

**VI. Interviews for the position of State Librarian**

James Lee asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to conduct the interviews of Meg Placke and Giovanni Tairov in accordance with R.S. 42:17(A)(1). (R.S. 42:17(A)(1) allows a public body to discuss the character or professional competence of a person in executive session.) A motion was made by Christy Reeves and seconded by Darryl Gissel. The motion was unanimously approved.

Interviews were conducted during Executive Session, followed by discussion. Following the discussion, Mr. Lee asked for a motion to return to Open Session. A motion was made by Marian Fertitta and seconded by Darryl Gissel. The motion to return to Open Session was unanimously approved.

Meg Placke was invited to come into the meeting. James Lee asked for a motion to appoint Meg Placke as State Librarian. The motion was made by Christy Reeves and seconded by Dorothy White. Mr. Lee then asked for a roll call vote. The board members each responded “Yay” confirming the vote was unanimous. Mr. Lee asked Ms. Placke if she would accept, and she responded affirmatively.

**VII. New Business**

A. James Lee announced that the fourth quarter meeting will be held on October 27, 2023, at 6 p.m.

B. James Lee asked for agenda items for future meetings. The Board agreed that the new bylaws should be discussed at the first meeting in 2024, and Christy Reeves asked to review the State Library’s recently adopted Strategic Five-year Plan.

**VIII. Announcements**

**T**he next Board meeting will take place on Friday, October 27, at 6 p.m. immediately prior to the Louisiana Book Festival Authors Party held in the State Library from 7 pm to 9 pm. All Board members are invited to attend the party with a guest.

The 2023 Louisiana Book Festival will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023, and feature roughly 200 authors, scholars, and panelists.

The cost of a hotel room at Hilton Baton Rouge for any out-of-town Board member planning to stay in town after the party will be covered in order that the member may attend the Festival the next day. Mr. Lee asked Board members to please let Tracy LeDoux know if they will need a hotel room.

The Board discussed plans for a reception or lunch for the new State Librarian at the Administrative Librarian’s Conference on November 3, 2023. Details have not been finalized.

**IX. Adjournment**

Christy Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.