

LBOC Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting Notes

April 3, 2023

Attendance: Kelly LaRocca, Tanya DiMaggio, Brent Geiger, Anne Shaw, Emily Couvillon, Hilari Melerine, Becky Taylor, Sally McKissack, Louanne Bertrand, Jennifer Rifino, Sarah Aucoin

1. Review Bylaws, Section 111. Quorum, Rules of Order, and Enactments
 - a. Add New Section C – Public Comment
 - i. Review St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances section 120-57 General Rules of Pubic Participation
 - b. Enactments becomes Section D
 - c. Add Section E – Rules of Conduct
 - i. Review St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances section 120-95 General Rules of Public Participation
 - d. Remove General comment period at the end of Library Board of Control Meetings. It is not in the bylaws nor is it required by law. Each speaker will only be allowed to speak on the items listed on the agenda, unless the proper procedures are followed to add something to the agenda.
 - e. Part B, following Robert’s Rules of Order allows board members to motion for a recess.
2. Section 205 Materials Display –
 - a. Ask other libraries in Louisiana for policies on public and staff displays
 - b. Public Displays - what is the library’s legal standing on what can and cannot be limited as a limited public forum? Ask for opinion from DA’s Office
 - c. Staff Displays – Draft A
 - i. Keep current policy
 - ii. Add “on public issues” to part c
 - iii. Add part d: “staff will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in Library-initiated displays and exhibits . . .”
 - iv. Add part e: “displays on established commemorative months that refer to groups of people shall be made up of . . .”
 - d. Staff Displays – Draft B (Preferred)
 - i. Staff curate Library displays to further the mission and goals of Library programming and services. Library displays are curated by staff at each branch location under the direction of branch managers or department managers, and occasionally administration. Library displays are intended to:
 1. Call attention to a theme related to STPL services, collections, or programs;
 2. Highlight current issues, events, or other subjects of public interest;
 3. Prominently display materials or highlight Library resources and services

- ii. Add “All staff displays shall be approved by the Branch Manager.” After bulleted list
- iii. Add: “As an apolitical entity” to the beginning of paragraph that starts “Staff will strive to include . . .”
- iv. Add or the Library Board of Control to “Inclusion . . . does not constitute an endorsement by the STPL or . . .”
- v. Reword “Displays on established commemorative months . . . individuals in the group have had on local, state, national and international history.”
- vi. Remove Example
- vii. Add “Displays in children’s and teen sections shall be age appropriate for those likely to encounter such displays in those sections.”

3. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, April 6 at 9:30 am at Madisonville
- b. Discuss limiting frequency of statements of concern for individual titles. i.e. Book cannot be challenged for same reason within a 3-year period of LBOC decision.

4. Public Comment –

- a. Cynthia Weatherly from Covington wanted to let the board know that Connie Phillips made a statement that she would not be speaking at any Library board meetings and instead concentrating on replacing Parish Council members. Cynthia would like to be in a place where she (and the rest of the alliance) could trust the library board not to make decisions based on appeasing the people in the Library Accountability Project. She feels the length of time the books being reviewed are sequestered is inappropriate and would like to see them returned to the shelf during the review process. Cynthia had a handout that contained evidence of a suspected theft of a library book.
- b. Jeremy Thompson asked if there would be any Pride displays at the branches this year, since he has a vested interest in seeing them. Kelly responded, that as per the new policy and existing procedure, it would be up to each branch’s branch manager and she would be asking ahead of time so they could make patrons aware of which branches were having them. He also asked about a policy prohibiting a patron from challenging a book more than once in a certain amount of time. He also wanted to point out that the Statements of concern and the speech that the people used in them were hate speech. He asked the board to put themselves into the shoes of someone listening to them 20 years from now and how it would make them feel.