

Lafayette Public Library Board meeting minutes

Remote meeting via Zoom Conference

October 11, 2021

I. **Call to order** at 6:32 pm

Present: Chair Olivia Ameigh, Vice Chair Susan Curtis, Secretary Dave Belin, Randy Bender, Jess Gribble, Ed Knight, Jody Tracy, Denice Walker, Autumn Warrington, Library Director Melissa Hisel, and Assistant Director Scott Foley.

II. **Library Mission:** “The Lafayette Public Library brings community, information, and ideas together to inspire learning, literacy, and discovery.”

III. **Comments from Public:** None.

IV. **Approval of Minutes from September 2021 Meeting:** Curtis moved to accept the minutes from the September 2021 meeting, as written; Ameigh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. **Discussion: HRC Recommendation for Removal of Mary Miller Mural:** The board discussed the recommendation from the Human Rights Committee (HRC) to remove the Miller name from various Lafayette landmarks, including the mural on the south side of the library building.

Members of the HRC attended the meeting to present a summary or research on the issue, the rationale behind their recommendation, and to answer questions from the LPL board.

Questions and discussion touched on a wide range of subjects and thoughts, including the following:

- The budgetary implications for the City and/or the Library, which were not specifically researched as part of the HRC recommendation. Could the funds be better used for education and inclusion programs?
- The distinction between Mary Miller individually and the Miller family in general, and the desire to have a better understanding of the difference between the two. Can we gain a better understanding about Mary Miller specifically and if she actively promoted white supremacist or other racist views?
- The HRC recommendation addresses the removal of Mary Miller but does not specify removing Lafayette Miller. Is there a clarification on that issue?
- Discussion about practices that were common in the time but are now seen as not acceptable. HRC commented about today’s context and how it contributes to ongoing harm to people in the community today. The HRC contends that the Miller name continues to do harm and does not represent values that Lafayette strives to stand for today.
- There were suggestions from the Library Board for considering using the mural as an opportunity for education. Would there be an option to change the signage to explain and educate? We don’t want to erase the history prematurely, maybe education is an option to consider? Is taking the mural down erasing? Can we be more creative?

