

**ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 12, 2025 | 5:30 pm | Meeting Room ABC**

Present: Chair Wendy Tucker, Andrew Cacossa, Nicole Davenport, Angela Dixon, Albert “Howie” Howard, Jimmy Johnson, Kelly Moon, Frances Saville

Absent: Pinkey Rinnix

Staff Present: Annie Sutton, Library Director; Jane Cornelius, Head of Finance; Miranda White, Admin Assistant

Also Present: Jordan Thayer, Assistant County Attorney; Eleanor Walters, Friends of the Library Chair

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Board Chair Wendy Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Andy Cacossa gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [Action]

Nicole Davenport motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025, as written. Howie Howard seconded. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard as follows:

1. Jennifer Pray [1]: Changes to the Collection Development Policy, included state laws
2. Jessicka Spearman Childs [5]: Changes to Collection Development Policy, targeting, legality of actions
3. Elaine Stoll [1]: Changes to Collection Dev. Policy, discrimination, free speech; Board represents a public entity
4. Tony Wegoner [3]: restricting access, bullying and harassment
5. Melanie Croft [5]: AU Library Director, technical comments on Collection Development Policy
6. Roanne Elmswood [3]: Personal experience; against banning books/censorship
7. Andrea Draisen [1]: removal of ALA Bill of Rights from Collection Development Policy
8. Mona Fleming [4]: Diverse collection; intellectual freedom; Board should be non-partisan
9. Susan Melvin [4]: 1st Amendment protects the freedom to read; restricting access
11. Eammie Dylan Barnes [2]: Denying books prevents development of critical thinking skills; parental oversight
12. Lucy Owens [1]: Removing representation; the Library is a public institution that serves/reflects everyone

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Chair Tucker asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add “and separately a legal matter” under Executive Session. Howie Howard so moved and Jimmy Johnson seconded. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jimmy Johnson moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal financial matter with the Assistant County Attorney, to hear a report from the Personnel Committee, and separately, a legal matter. Angela Dixon seconded and all were in favor. The Board entered Executive Session at 6:04 pm. At 6:39 pm, Howie Howard motioned to exit Executive Session and Angela Dixon seconded. All were in favor. No action was taken during Executive Session.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION [Action]

Personnel Committee Report: Committee Chair Nicole Davenport reported on the Library Director’s recent evaluation and presented the Committee’s recommendation to increase the Library Director’s salary in alignment with the standard cost of living increase for all County employees, effective July 1, 2025. Howie Howard motioned to approve the report and recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Jimmy Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION, cont.]

Legal Financial Matter: Nicole Davenport motioned to consent to the termination of the Skelton Fund Trust. Angela Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

The Friends had a successful annual meeting in April. Friends Board Chair, Eleanor Walters, reported that the Friends raised almost \$50k in funds and distributed roughly half those funds in grants to the Library System over the past fiscal year. Volunteers contributed over 7,500 hours of service to the Library. The Friends Bookstore and Gift Shop will be open during the Summer Reading Kickoff on Saturday, May 31, and Summer Reading t-shirts can be ordered through the online store. The Prickly Fingers Quilt Guild has gifted two themed quilts to use as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report: Director Sutton presented the financial report for month ending April 30, 2025. The Library is on track with the current budget. Spending for Community Relations programming will increase soon, due to Summer Reading. Purchases for the new Iva Branch will show an increase in Capital Outlay on the next report. No word from the County yet about the 25-26 Budget.

Capital Projects Update: The Iva project is nearing completion, with furniture and shelving going in on Wednesday of this week. The Board will receive formal email invites for the ribbon cutting on Friday, May 30.

The Library purchased a Ford Escape Hybrid as an additional vehicle; this was budgeted for the current fiscal year. The new Bookmobile is on order and projected to arrive in November. The Library will pay 50% of the price in the current fiscal year and pay the remaining amount once the vehicle is delivered in the new fiscal year.

SPECIAL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT [Action]

Committee Chair Angela Dixon reported on the Committee's work on the Library's Collection Development Policy in connection to SC Proviso 27.1. Edits to the Collection Development Policy and Library Card Application form were sent out as a draft to all Board Members.

Collection Development Policy: Chair Dixon reviewed the draft changes to the Collection Development Policy and received comments from Board Members.

Frances Saville made a motion to table the action on the Collection Development Policy until the next meeting or a Called meeting. No second was made and the motion failed.

Board Members made suggestions and further edits to the draft document. Nicole Davenport suggested voting on the changes to the policy after viewing a fully-revised draft and moved to table the action on the Collection Development Policy to a Called meeting. Angela Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Library Card Application Form: Director Sutton reviewed the draft changes to the Library Card Application form and took questions and further suggestions from Board Members. Director Sutton will do the majority of the staff training to implement these changes, and changes will be made to the ILS System [Sirsi]. Director Sutton reiterated that these changes will take time to implement. Current Juvenile Cards will remain Juvenile Cards in the system until a parent/legal guardian changes it.

Angela Dixon moved to table the action on the Library Card Application Form until the Collection Development Policy is approved by the Board. Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Facilities Update: Main's roof is being repaired again, and the wiring project is nearing completion. Landscaping is in progress at Main and Pendleton, with some updates and changes coming to Belton and Honea Path in the fall.

Marketing/Programming Update: The Library's Teen VEX Robotics Team is currently at Worlds Competition in Houston, Texas!

The Soiree was a hugely successful outreach opportunity for the Library, with an estimated 1,800 interactions. The 2025 Art Slam Winner, Matt Andrews, has an art exhibit at the Main Library in May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will have a Called Meeting on June 16 at 5:30 pm to review the edited drafts of the Collection Development Policy and Library Card Application form. The updated draft will be sent out to the Board before the meeting.

The Library's Meeting Room Policy needs updating. Director Sutton and Miranda White will be reviewing the document in the coming months.

The Library's Strategic Plan is expiring at the end of 2025. The process for a new Strategic Plan will start at the beginning of 2026. Director Sutton invited help or recommendations if the Board would like to be involved in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tucker asked for a motion to adjourn. Howie Howard so moved, and Nicole Davenport seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

A Called Meeting of the Library Board is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Cacossa
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Approved 07.14.2025 [MW]