

**ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 8, 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, Administrative Assistant

Also Present: Eleanor Walters, Friends of the Library Chair

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm, and Howie Howard gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Howie Howard motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2025, as written and Andy Cacossa seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard as follows:

1. Jamie Dean [4]: Concern over reduced library funding; support for librarians
2. Jane Massey [4]: Support for diverse collection; Board should represent the diverse community
3. Mona Fleming [4]: Intellectual freedom; Collection Development Policy is a form of censorship
4. Robert Mecke [2]: Flagging Reconsideration books threatens intellectual freedom
5. Kevin Hardy [4]: Thanked members for their service and bringing integrity, accountability to Board
6. Laura Lander [2]: Parental oversight; censorship; ALA is your friend; consider the budget with changes

FRIENDS REPORT

The Friends of the Library report was presented by Eleanor Walters. The Friends Quilt Raffle and Traveling Quilt Show begins September 10, with the raffle drawing following Sonic Lunch on December 10. Tickets were available to purchase after the September Board Meeting. A successful pop-up book sale was held at the Powdersville Branch, which collects the most donated books throughout the year. The Friends are looking for volunteers to help staff the Bookstore and Gift Shop.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report: Jane Cornelius presented the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2025. The Library is on track with the current budget and currently operating on fund balance reserves until the first round of County funds is received. The estimated unassigned fund balance amount is pending the final audit report. The Library’s annual financial audit is progressing well. The auditors are expected to present their findings at the Board’s Regular November Meeting.

Capital Projects Update: Director Sutton shared the artwork for the new Bookmobile, expected to arrive in November. The new vehicle will be used for outreach, upping services to seniors and daycares or preschools, and to reach more people that don’t currently have library cards.

A new maintenance van has been purchased to replace the old one.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Facilities Update: The new Iva building has a leaking roof, which was not replaced as part of the recent project. One HVAC VAV box at the Main library is being replaced. Parking lots at the Belton, Pendleton, and Williamston branches will be repaved and striped by the end of the month. Security cameras at the Main Library are being updated, and a badge scan system is planned to be installed at the staff entrance.

Collection Development & Library Card Policy Update: The implementation of the updated policy has been delayed, and the project will now be handled by SIRSI, using existing credits, so there will be no extra cost for the initial planning. Staff training is complete, and a new timeline will be provided after receiving a quote from SIRSI for the implementation phase.

Marketing/Programming Update: Director Sutton shared Summer Reading stats with the Board and discussed an idea to introduce and stick with a new strategy for the next 3-5 years. A partnership with local businesses for reading incentives was suggested.

The year-long 'Chapter Chasers' reading challenge for adults has been successful.

The Library is currently promoting a Sonic Lunch event on September 10th, a Halloween Costume Swap, and Library Card Sign-up Month throughout September with outreach events and giveaways.

Strategic Plan: Director Sutton presented a proposal to begin the strategic planning process for 2026. The proposed plan includes patron and staff surveys, a SWOT analysis for both leadership and the board, community input sessions, and targeted outreach to non-library users. The Board will schedule a SWOT analysis session before the end of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Request for Reconsideration Form [Action]: Jimmy Johnson made a motion to modify the existing form and Angela Dixon seconded. During discussion, Director Sutton explained the reason behind the current form's adoption: the staff wanted to give more specific steps to the public, emphasize reading the entire work, clarify the limit of one request at a time, and ensure that the person making the request put significant time and effort into it. The Board voted and the motion passed with five votes in favor and three votes against.

The Board discussed simplifying the four statements at the top of the form, and moving some statements to the bottom of the form. Howie Howard motioned to make the changes to the form and Jimmy Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to leave the patron information section of the form as is, and Angela Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to remove the line, "How did you learn about this material?" and Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed with six in favor and two opposed.

Nicole Davenport motioned to change, "Explain the purpose of this material?" to "What is the theme of this material?" Jimmy Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Andrew Cacossa motioned to remove, "What positive qualities does the material present?" Angela Dixon seconded. After discussion, the Board voted and the motion failed with 2 in favor and 6 opposed.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to remove, "What have reviewers said about this material? Please include review sources." Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to keep, "What concerns you about this material?" and Andy Cacossa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Angela Dixon motioned to remove, “What is your evidence for that belief”? Howie Howard seconded. After discussion, the Board voted and the motion passed with six voting in favor and two opposed.

Nicole Davenport motioned to change the question, “In its place, what high-quality material do you suggest that would provide additional information of other viewpoints on this topic?” to read, “Are there any resources that you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?” and making the question optional. Angela Dixon seconded the motion. After the discussion, the Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Howie Howard motioned to remove the line, “Please provide a review source for the material you recommended above.” Angela Dixon seconded. After discussion, the Board voted and the motion failed with three in favor and five opposed. Nicole Davenport motioned to amend the line to read, “If available, please provide a review source for the material you recommended above (optional).” Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to keep the line, “What action are you requesting the library consider?” Nicole Davenport seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kelly Moon motioned to strike the words, “of complainant” from the signature line. Jimmy Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to postpone the vote on the revised draft of the Request for Reconsideration form until the next meeting. Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Officer Nomination/Election: Chair Tucker called for nominations for Board Chair. Nominations were received for Jimmy Johnson and Wendy Tucker. Chair Tucker called for a vote by show of hands. Jimmy Johnson received six votes and was declared Board Chair.

Nominations were called for Vice Chair. Nominations were received for Wendy Tucker and Kelly Moon. Kelly Moon declined the nomination. Chair Tucker called for a vote by show of hands. Wendy Tucker was declared Vice-Chair.

Nominations were called for Secretary/Treasurer. After receiving a nomination for Andy Cacossa, Chair Tucker called for a vote by show of hands. Andy Cacossa was declared Secretary/Treasurer.

The elected officers will assume their duties at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tucker asked for a motion to adjourn. Howie Howard so moved, and Andy Cacossa seconded. All were in favor. Chair Tucker declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Cacossa,
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Approved 11.10.2025 [MW]