York County Library Board of Trustees Meeting
August 14, 2025 Rock Hill Public Library 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and determined we had a quorum for the meeting.

Attending board members: Tim Steele, Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Nancy Nicholson, Laura Milem, Susan Piening, and Terry Plumb. Also attending: Martin House (YCL) and Julie Ward (Director YCL), Pam Miler (YCL), Kevin Madden (YC Assistant County Manager), Michael Kendree (YC Attorney).

Nancy Nicholson made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Laura Milem seconded. Dennis Getter made a motion to amend the wording “next budget” as following: “excess funds should be applied to our fund balance.” The motion by Dennis was seconded by Carol Herring and unanimously approved. The minutes were approved unanimously with that correction.

Public Comment:

Lark Wells described her vision for the future of the library.
Sherri Pankratz expressed a concern about board policy.
Marny Martimore emphasized the importance of books.
Karen Stock wonders what prurient means and wants the library to be a haven of diversity.
Robert Rummage supports the commonsense board policy.
Shannon Flannigan opposes censorship and supports freedom to read.

Reports:

Director Julie Ward provided a draft of the statistics report. Summer reading program was successful (number of participants 4,856; all together clocked 5,207,269 minutes of reading). Books that were entered totaled 11, 144 titles. A bidder has been chosen for the electrical upgrade and is on the agenda for the York County Council to vote on the contractor at their next meeting. The next step will be a walk through by the general contractor and a timeline. The library will probably be closed for six months, but faster if closed. Plans are underway to continue programs and make books available. September 20 is the date for Patchwork, White Home from 10:30-5:30.

Treasurer Dennis Getter reported for June and July, pointing out timing issues with funds. He explained which items were over budget in June (expenses carried over, funds from Friends not received yet). In July he noted three areas that are over due to timing of payments: employee benefits 46%; electronic reference 19%; memberships 42%. We are well within budget.

Standing Committees:

Strategic Planning Committee will meet following the Board meeting to complete a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.

Policy Committee will report after their meeting with the County Attorney.

Executive Session:

Tim Steele made the motion that the Board enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter and to receive legal advice. Carol Herring seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action resulting from Executive Session:

Dennis Getter made the following motion: I move that the Board authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to meet with the Director within the next ten days, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to formally go over the personnel matter(s) as discussed in executive session and take such other related action as may be necessary to document the personnel matter(s). Susan Piening seconded. The motion passed with one opposing.

New business:

Carol Herring, chair of Strategic Planning Committee explained the procedure for the SWOT exercise, looking at four categories: programs and services, facilities, staff, collections. In two groups, the members completed the analysis and posted their responses. Carol Herring oversaw the groups and led a brief discussion at the end, focusing on the extraordinary and unexpected. Dennis Getter suggested another category, Social Media, that will be important for our future referendum. He also “volunteered” to examine the possibility of using the second floor of the Fort Mill Library. She assured the group that they will receive their responses via email for them to consider priorities within each category. Carol Herring and Julie Ward will meet with Josh Edwards, County Manager, to discuss plans going forward.

Nancy Nicholson made the motion to adjourn; Terry Plumb seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:20.

Submitted,
Carol Herring, Secretary