

York County Library Board Meeting

Minutes from February 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Fort Mill Branch

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined we had a quorum.

Members present: Chair Tim Steele, Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Laura Milem, Susan Piening, Terry Plumb. Absent: Nancy Nicholson. Also attending: Director Julie Ward, Martin House (YCL).

Minutes: Dennis Getter called to question the previous meeting minutes will need to include exact wording of the motion proposed by Chairman Steele. This passed unanimously. The minutes will stand for approval at our next meeting when this change is made.

Public Comments:

Laura Cato commented on the need for new libraries for the York County communities.

Lacie Lane commented on the York County Library mission statement.

Reports:

Director Julie Ward provided statistics from January 2024 to January 2025. She spoke of the newly released (soft launch) of the YCL mobile APP that 275 have accessed.

Dennis Getter questioned the mobile printing, whether it was for the year, not monthly.

Terry Plumb requested information about books not ordered. Director Ward responded that two books had not been purchased due to SC Proviso 27.1 as she reminded him that is challenging to comply with the law since books cannot be read prior to purchasing. Director Ward explained that these books are not being banned, but what complies comes down to a "best guess."

Terry Plumb made a motion to display a list of books not purchased that failed due to lack of a second. Chairman Steele commented that 27.1 will be discussed under New Business.

Treasurer Dennis Getter provided the monthly report of funds and reminded the board again that some of the cost variances need to be considered as the annual expenses, so the budget will balance. He pointed out that the -14% appropriations shortfall from the state was simply a matter of timing as we expect the entire amount from the state. Two other items (periodicals and professional fees) appear to be overspent but are under when considered year-to-date.

Standing Committees:

Committee Chair Carol Herring reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has not met yet.

Committee Chair Dennis Getter reported that the Policy Committee did not meet this month.

Unfinished Business:

Dennis Getter requested that the agenda include the word "None" if there is a space for unfinished business and none will be presented for the board meeting.

New Business:

- A. Mission Statement: Chairman Steele included this because it should reflect all that the library actually does and he wants the board to consider making changes. Dennis Getter noted that it lacks emphasis on literacy: libraries provide books, but Tim Steele mentioned that SC is 39th in literacy, perhaps also having a detrimental effect of Covid on children.

Terry Plumb asked about adequate facilities and pointed out areas badly underserved; various entities in this county can spend half a billion on sports and recreation, but this county spent zero on new libraries (no new library in 25 years).

Dennis had reviewed other counties' websites and mentioned Lexington County's simple, straightforward mission statement that highlights literacy and books.

Carol Herring questioned when our mission statement was written, but no one could answer that question.

- B. Pre-meeting orientation training (Library 101) to be held in March prior to our board meeting in York at 5:00.

Terry Plumb offered the following motion that passed with one dissenting vote:

I move that each member of the York County Library Board of Trustees participate in a Meet Your Trustee Day, preferably at the library in or near their district, and that the trustee be given a library tour, and make himself or herself available to speak with library employees and patrons about how the York County Library may better serve their needs.

Carol Herring seconded the motion and asked Director Ward for guidance on the best way forward that would be the most beneficial and effective for the library staff. Julie Ward will reach out to the branch librarians and help to arrange these meetings. The board members are encouraged to select the branch closest to them to visit and find out library and community needs. They will advertise it as a program. Chairman Steele asked Director Ward for the two memos from State Librarian Leesa Aiken. He read Proviso 27.1, then a portion from the June 24 memo from the state librarian, Leesa Aiken, regarding Proviso 27.1. He then read Proviso 27.1, followed by his motion of the October 14 meeting of the York County Library Board that called for a moratorium on funds being spent for sexually explicit materials until further clarification from the Attorney General's office. Not following this state proviso would result in a loss of \$706,000 in state funding. He referred to the November 4, 2024 memo from Leesa Aiken that addressed this issue again, but with comments from Alan Wilson's office. We are doing what the AG's office stated, thus the policy committee is working on the inclusion of this in our handbook. Terry asked if the policy committee has met, and he reminded them of the guidelines regarding FOIA. Tim Steele directed board members to look on page 23 in the Library Manual about meetings in conjunction with FOIA. Chairman Steele will get the county attorney's guidance on this and will ensure that we are following all necessary guidelines.

Terry Plumb provided FOIA SC state guidelines that require the meetings be announced, minutes kept and all be aware of these meetings.

Carol Herring asked which page in the guideline addressed public meetings, after which the board searched the manual, determining probably page 18 referred to our status.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 after a motion by Dennis Gettter and a second by Susan Piening.

Carol Herring, YCLB Secretary