

MINUTES
Lexington County Library Board Meeting
Lexington Main Library
April 28, 2025
3:30 PM

The Lexington County Library Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025, in the Lexington Main Library beginning at 3:30 PM. Chair Bill Jones presided.

Mrs. Linda Griffith gave the Invocation.

Members Attending:	Mr. Bill Jones	Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie
	Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger	Dr. Renita Irving
	Dr. Maria Arroyo	Mrs. Linda Griffith
	Ms. Barbara Remick	Mr. Vachel Jones
	Ms. Kay Mein	

Also in attendance: Kelly Poole, Director; Michelle Williams, Deputy Director of Personnel; Amber Conger, Deputy Director of Operations; Wendy Groscoat, Executive Assistant and patron Sam Scott

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was posted on the Library's website and in the lobby of the Lexington Main Library.

Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting on March 31, 2025

Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 31, 2025, meeting minutes. Mrs. Linda Griffith made a motion to approve the March 31, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Barbara Remick.

Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Bill Jones	Dr. Maria Arroyo
	Mr. Vachel Jones	Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger
	Mrs. Linda Griffith	Ms. Barbara Remick
	Ms. Kay Mein	

Abstained: Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie

Chairman's Report – There was none

Announcements – Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any announcements.

Mrs. Linda Griffith informed the Board that she attended the Lexington County Council meeting on April 22, 2025, to support the Library’s budget request. The growth of Lexington County was discussed.

Mr. Vachel Jones shared that the Friends of the Irmo Library recently awarded scholarships to two student volunteers. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 toward their secondary education. Mr. Jones also let the Board know that this year’s Mystery Dinner Theater will be held on July 25 on Main Street in Downtown Columbia. More information will be provided by the Friends group in the coming weeks.

Committee Reports – Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any Committee Reports.

- **Finance Committee** (Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie)
- **By-Laws and Library Policies Committee** – (Mr. Vachel Jones) – There was none.
- **Long-Range Planning/Advocacy Committee** (Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger) – There was none.
- **Facilities/Branch Committee** (Mrs. Linda Griffith)

Approval of Minutes – Facilities/Branch Committee Meeting of March 24, 2025

Committee Chair Linda Griffith asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 24, 2025, Facilities/Branch Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Maria Arroyo made a motion to accept the March 24, 2025, Facilities/Branch Committee minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Vachel Jones.

Committee Chair Linda Griffith called for the vote.

In Favor: Mrs. Linda Griffith Mr. Vachel Jones
 Dr. Renita Irving Dr. Maria Arroyo

Approval of Minutes – Facilities/Branch Committee Meeting of March 31, 2025

Committee Chair Linda Griffith asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 31, 2025, Facilities/Branch Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Maria Arroyo made a motion to accept the March 31, 2025, Facilities/Branch Committee minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Vachel Jones.

Committee Chair Linda Griffith called for the vote.

In Favor: Mrs. Linda Griffith Mr. Vachel Jones
 Dr. Maria Arroyo

Abstained: Dr. Renita Irving

Director’s Report – Director Poole gave the Director’s Report and shared the Bank Reconciliation Report for March 2025.

Director Poole informed the Board that she is continuing to review procedural information regarding potential requirements for the Oath of Office. She has been in discussions with County Administrator Lynn Sturkie and several County Council members regarding the issue, and she will continue to keep the Board updated as needed.

Director Poole informed the Board that a budgetary proviso has been introduced that shall withhold SC State Aid to County Libraries if a county library denies a request by the respective County Elections Board to use space available for public meetings or available for rent at the county library as a polling location. Director Poole also shared that both the SC House and Senate have each introduced budgetary provisos that delve into the withholding of allocated funds from county libraries if they do not have an adopted policy in place that states “that they do not offer books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under 17 in the children's, youth, or teen book sections and are only made available with explicit parental consent.” Director Poole assured the Board that SCAPLA and the SC State Library will continue to monitor these provisos, and she will update the Board if a call to action is necessary.

Director Poole informed the Board that the Trump Administration’s Executive Order calling for the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) creates an uncertain future for Library Services and Technology (LSTA) grants provided through the SC State Library. These LSTA grants provide funding for our Summer Reading Program each year, along with Continuing Education grants and Tuition Reimbursement grants. She will continue to monitor and inform the Board as needed.

Director Poole eagerly shared with the Board that both the SC House and Senate approved \$2.75 per capita for the next fiscal year. This is a \$0.25 per capita increase over the last budget year and should provide approximately \$70,000 in additional funding.

Deputy Director Amber Conger shared that Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center provided information regarding a grant for a food distribution program. Once a week over the summer, a box truck would go to the Gaston and Gilbert branch libraries and distribute a week’s worth of meals to families that qualify. This is a great way to reach out into the community, and we are excited about new patrons this would bring in and about helping people in the community. She hopes to have more information to share with the Board at the next meeting.

Deputy Director Amber Conger updated the Board that the SC State Library provided funding for all libraries in the state to use the logging system, Beanstack, to record their progress during this year’s Summer Reading Program. Lexington School District One is also utilizing Beanstack for their students to also receive reading credit over the summer months.

Deputy Director Michelle Williams informed the Board that four library staff members have taken part in the County of Lexington’s Educational Incentive Program and have completed a Spanish fluency test. The staff members are: Mauricio Blanco from Systems, Meliannette Ruiz from the Mobile Library, Shannon Phillips from the Gilbert Branch and Hannah Drafts from the Cayce-West Columbia Branch. They are now certified to assist patrons at branches and outreaches.

Deputy Director Michelle Williams shared with the Board that branch librarians and library administration will attend a Library Leadership Retreat on May 15 at the American Legion Hut. The retreat will be facilitated by the library’s Staff Development Coordinator, Matthew Smith, and will focus on feedback, gratitude and Clifton’s Strengths assessment.

Unfinished Business – Chair Bill Jones asked if there was any Unfinished Business.

Juvenile Library Card Restrictions

Continuing to navigate the requirements of the SC Budget Proviso regarding age limits and how those requirements relate to policy, the Board agreed to continue to table this discussion until the next meeting. Further discussion of this topic will fall under Unfinished Business at the Library Board Meeting on May 19, 2025.

New Business – Chair Bill Jones asked if there was any New Business. There was none

Educational Segment – There was none

Adjournment – Mrs. Linda Griffith moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger.

Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Bill Jones	Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie
	Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger	Dr. Renita Irving
	Dr. Maria Arroyo	Mrs. Linda Griffith
	Ms. Barbara Remick	Mr. Vachel Jones
	Ms. Kay Mein	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 PM.

Next meeting will be 3:30 PM on May 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy D. Groscost
Executive Assistant

Kelly R. Poole
Director