

MINUTES
Lexington County Library Board Meeting
Lexington Main Library
May 19, 2025
3:30 PM

The Lexington County Library Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025, in the Lexington Main Library beginning at 3:30 PM. Chair Bill Jones presided.

Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie gave the Invocation.

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

Members Absent: Dr. Renita Irving

Also in attendance: Kelly Poole, Director; Amber Conger, Deputy Director of Operations; Wendy Groscoat, Executive Assistant; Patron Training and Technology Coordinator, Matt Steinmetz, Youth Services Coordinator, Jennifer Smith 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.

AARP Recognition

Matt Steinmetz, Patron Training and Technology Coordinator, introduced to the Board the AARP volunteers that facilitated the Tax-Aide Service for the Library: Regional Coordinator/Trainer, Jim Goens; District Trainer and Lexington Shift Coordinator, John Bowles and volunteer preparer, Mona Dorn. The Tax-Aide program was able to provide free tax preparation assistance for mostly lower income and older citizens at Lexington Main and the Irmo Branch. AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers receive approximately 40 hours of classroom training in AARP courses approved by the IRS. This year was a very successful year. They filed or amended 1,048 returns – a 3.4% increase from last year and 33% increase from 2017. The estimated value of services that AARP provided this year was approximately \$220,000. There was a waiting list for their services by mid-February at Irmo and mid-March at Lexington Main. Director Poole thanked the volunteers for all that AARP does for the community. She also extended a big thank you to library staff for helping make this year successful and working with AARP and citizens, especially at Lexington Main Library with the elevator not working.

Summer Reading Program 2025

Youth Services Coordinator, Jennifer Smith, provided an overview of the 2025 Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Color Our World" – highlighting art and creativity – and runs from May 30 through August 1. The Library is again using the sign-up platform, Beanstack, an activity-based website that allows patrons to track their progress to win prizes. Tracking cards are also available in English and Spanish. Each child receives a book when they register for Summer Reading. Upon completion, they will receive a canvas tote bag with this year's Summer Reading design, along with coupons and crayons they can use to color their tote. Adults also receive a Summer Reading designed tote bag. Patron Training and Technology Coordinator, Matt Steinmetz, shared with the Board that Best Selling Author Mary Alice Monroe will be the kickoff speaker for the Adult Summer Reading at the Lexington Main Branch on June 12 at 6:00 PM. We are collaborating with a local small business, All Good Books, to provide copies of her newest book *Where the Rivers Merge* for patrons to purchase and have them signed by the author.

Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting on April 28, 2025

Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 28, 2025, meeting minutes. Mrs. Linda Griffith made a motion to approve the April 28, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger.

Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

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

Chairman's Report

Chair Bill Jones informed the Board that he had attended the second reading of the FY2025-2026 County Budget. He noted that many other County departments' budget requests, like the Library's, are also in response to Lexington County's expanding population and growth. He also attended both the Lexington Main Friends Board meeting and spoke to the staff at the Library Leadership Retreat in May.

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

Ms. Barbara Remick shared with the Board that the Chapin Friends gave a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from Springhill High School, who will be attending Clemson University in the upcoming fall semester.

Mrs. Linda Griffith and Dr. Renita Irving also attended the second reading of the FY2025-2026 County Budget to support the Library's budget request presentation.

Mr. Vachel Jones shared with the Board about several programs and events at the Irmo Branch – the Community Conversations program, in partnership with SC State Library and USC, that focused on Accessible Reading Resources and explored reading resources offered by the state for folks with disabilities; Socks of Love, a nationwide project that takes pairs of socks and fills them with essential toiletries and other necessities to donate to individuals experiencing homelessness and the Little Free Pantry progress report from March 2025 that listed donations that were received and donated during the months of December 2024 through March 2025.

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

- **Finance Committee** (Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie) – There was none.
- **By-Laws and Library Policies Committee** – (Mr. Vachel Jones) – Committee Chair Vachel Jones reported that more discussion is required for the Juvenile Library Card Restriction policy updates.
- **Long-Range Planning/Advocacy Committee** (Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger) – There was none.
- **Facilities/Branch Committee** (Mrs. Linda Griffith) – There was none.

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

Director Poole shared information with the Board from the SC Association of Public Library Administrators (SCAPLA) meeting she attended on May 16. In regard to the Budget State Aid Proviso 27.1 (Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment), the House Ways and Means Committee will approve the House or Senate version tomorrow. SCAPLA is confident that support of the House version can be achieved. Library Administrators from around the state are concerned that there are concentrated efforts from other groups that question the necessity that Library Directors Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) be certified through the American Library Association (ALA) and instead focus the shift to only require a master’s degree for the Director position. Currently, state law mandates that Library Directors must have an MLIS from an ALA accredited university.

Director Poole shared with the Board that staff recommend increasing check-out times from four weeks to six weeks for book club sets. She also informed the Board the Collection Development Policy is being reviewed as well as library card ages and youth collections.

Deputy Director Amber Conger provided additional information from last month’s meeting regarding the food distribution program through Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center. On Monday mornings and Thursday mornings over the summer, a box truck will distribute a week’s worth of meals to families at the Gaston and Gilbert branch libraries.

Director Poole gratefully reported that the Library received a total of \$6,328 from the Central Carolina Community Foundation’s online event, Midlands Gives Day, held on May 6, 2025. This annual fundraising event takes place on the first Tuesday of May each year and celebrates supporting nonprofits in the Midlands.

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 June 30, 2025.

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

Adjournment – Mrs. Linda Griffith moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie.

Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy D. Groscost
Executive Assistant

Kelly R. Poole
Director