

## ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Meeting in person

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

12:30pm

Minutes

**Present:** Jessica Simmons, Bonnie Whitaker, Paula Hendricks, Shelbi Fanning, Lindsay McKinney, Cheryl Sandford

**Staff Present:** Susana Goldman, Terri Lamm

**County Commissioner Representative:** Pam Thompson

**Absent:** Lynn Merrill

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 pm by Jessica Simmons.

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

Jessica asked the members to introduce themselves. Shelbi Fanning is a new member. She has 2 small children under the age of 4.

30 minutes public comment period

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Jessica asked for approval of the minutes of the February 2025 meeting. Bonnie noted that “censor” was spelled wrong. Cheryl was misspelled and Lindsay was misspelled. Susana corrected these misspellings immediately.
- Cheryl made a motion to approve the minutes from February with the corrections. Bonnie seconded. No one objected. Minutes approved.

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- Susana said it is a busy time for libraries. Staff have been out at school evening events, weekend festivals, etc. This is along with the continuing programs. During April, we put on 182 programs and events. We saw 5,470 people during this time.
- We applied for a nationwide grant for digital literacy. This is a 3-year grant. This helps people apply for jobs, use a new phone, teach them how to apply. They are selecting 8 libraries in the nation. It has not been confirmed. This grant is to make a community to gather and share resources. We won’t find out until mid to late June if we win. Total over 3 years will be \$65,000. We already have a plan in place. This is working with a non-profit foundation. They understand that things are fluid and plans change.
- It is budget season. Cities and the county are voting on all their budgets. She asked everyone to keep themselves informed on what is being voted on. Many don’t participate in local elections. She asked that they vote. Pam asked for Susana to email her the program numbers. She also asked the public to reach out to the city council members and county commissioners to express their opinions. Susana said no county dollars pay for programs. The Friends of the Library fund all our programs. They give us around \$70,000 a year for programs. They are essential to our programs. Susana praised the Friends in how they fund raise and the money they actually raise. Pam added that cities pay maintenance, utilities, etc. She strongly encouraged everyone to work as a partnership. Pam talked about our bookmobile as well. Susana said it was so important to know who does what. She said to ask questions. Jessica agreed.

- Jessica asked how the makerspace event went. Susana said it was very popular. People loved trying out all new things. There were lots of families that tried the tools. We also recently had a heat press donated. The staff is figuring out how to use it and what it can be used for.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Update on Parental Guidance Suggested Form
  - The Commissioners did approve a final version. Susana handed out the revised version. Everything we hand out goes through the county attorney for review. The county attorney wanted to make sure it was defensible. The form does state what the committee wanted it to state. Cheryl said the attorney separated the policy from the form for legal reasons. The committee read through it. Lindsay asked what happens now moving forward. Susana said once the commissioners approved it, it was official. She said we were ready, once we get submissions.
- Public Comment Policy\*
  - Jessica talked about this. Susana said she took the commissioners' form and scaled it down. She had the county attorney look for it before handing it to the committee. The committee read through it. Jessica said it was a typo on "speakers." It says, "peakers." Susana will correct that. This version is specific to the library and needs a vote. Jessica made a motion to approve it and Cheryl seconded it. Shelbi noticed the footnote on the date and said it needed to be corrected. All voted in agreement to adopt the policy. None opposed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Charlie Pickens – Burlington
  - He wants to hear about the discussion on the parental guidance suggested policy & form. He said it would be nice to have a way to know what the books are about before checking them out for his children.
- Debra Kaufman – Mebane
  - She complimented the library's strategic plan and all the hard work the staff has put in to do this. She likes seeing the little children come into the library in Mebane. She commended Commissioner Thompson on being an advocate for libraries. Deborah talked about one of the commissioners wanting to remove the libraries from County.
- Racheal Stimpson – Elon
  - She is still concerned about the sticker policy. The Alamance News article said it still focused on LGBTQ people. She wants to make sure the library committee does not focus on LGBTQ. She wants the committee to be mindful of all of this.
  - She also spoke of the funding issue. Rachel said it would be catastrophic if the libraries were no longer under county funding. She said it is not supporting everyone, if the libraries were taken away from the county. Rachel said she would help in any way she could to do research or anything else.

#### **FURTHER COMMENTS FROM LIBRARY COMMITTEE:**

- No further comments

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- New Member Appointment Timeline
  - Susana said they are attempting to get Burlington to vote on these 2 members. The City Council in Burlington meets twice a month. Once they vote on it, the suggestions will go to the county commissioners to vote on them. We are working hard to get everything done so we can have the August meeting. 3 of the members are up for re-appointment for the county. Susana is trying to get on the first June meeting agenda for these

appointments. We have gotten a number of applications. June is a struggle because it is the county commissioners budget meeting. The first meeting in June has been moved to an evening meeting at the historic courthouse. Susana will try to get on the agenda at the first meeting. If she is not able to do that, it will be the second June meeting, June 16. This is an evening meeting and normally is the one the commissioners vote on the budget.

- Pam emphasized how important it is to attend any election. Do your research. They make decisions

Next meetings:

August 12, 2025 at 12:30pm.

November 18, 2025 at 12:30pm – this is a new date due to Veteran's Day falling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in November.

February 10, 2026 at 12:30pm.

May 12, 2026 at 12:30pm.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bonnie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:12p