

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Meeting in person

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

12:30pm

Minutes

PRESENT: Jessica Simmons, Bonnie Whitaker, Paula Hendricks, Tim Check, Cheryl Sandford, Shelbi Fanning, Lindsay McKinney, Debbie Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Susana Goldman, Kathy Garrison, Terri Lamm

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATIVE: Ed Priola

ABSENT: Lynn Merrill

The meeting was called to order at 12:29 pm by Jessica Simmons.

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

30 minutes public comment period allowed

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Vanessa Sullivan said a library committee member submitted many content notices. She said she thought this was potentially illegal and highly unethical.
- Southey Blanton thanked the library for the 100-year birthday party. He said his kids loved it. His wife asked him to say thanks to the FOL for their sale. She loves the puzzles. He talked about the ridiculous QR code and was concerned that PG stickers would lead to censorship.
- Debra Kaufman asked the library committee to have a discussion about the members recusing themselves if they submit a book for review. They should not get to submit a book and vote on it, as well. She also said it was not very nice when the committee spoke so ugly to Vanessa Sullivan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Jessica gave the members a few minutes to read over the minutes. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes. Bonnie seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- In the month of April, the libraries offered 207 programs. 4280 people attended. We participated in 5 community events – farmer's markets, resource fair and engaged with 368 people. May Memorial had their birthday party in April. It was well-attended. The cake was a big hit!
- We had Alamance Reads in April. The author was Vanessa Miller, who wrote The American Queen. She spoke at 3 events throughout the county. Over 170 people attended these events.
- North Park Library has a birthday party tomorrow.
- June is the final party – it is an after-hours event for adults only.
- Summer reading starts in mid-June. This will last for 2 months. June 6 – August 9. Kick-off celebration will be Saturday, June 6.
- We completed the children's ethernet move. At May Memorial, there were tripping hazards where the ethernet and power cords were plugged into. These were removed. It was an easy project to do. Gardner funds were used, not County dollars.
- Library Strengthening Connections grant – we received these funds. This will fix our internet problem. People keep getting dropped because the ethernet equipment is old. Kathy & Susana

will be allowing the workers into May Memorial on Sunday to begin installing new wireless access points. All 4 locations will be updated.

- Digital Literacy Grant update – this is a 3-year grant. We were able to add Chromebooks for check out for 7 days. If people are participating in the program, patrons can check them out for 28 days. We only purchased 20 to begin with. There are classes being offered now. Udemy resources were also added.
- Replacing self-check with Gardner endowment funds – They are coming to end-of-life. The computers are operating on Windows 7. We are switching vendors. The existing vendor was more expensive than the other 4 and their tech support is not good. IT reviewed all quotes with regards to security. IT will manage these self-checks.
- City of Mebane has made their recommendations for new library committee members. These recommendations will go to the County Commissioners to approve the appointments. Graham and Burlington will be submitting their recommendations.
- County manager will present the budget recommendations on Monday. Our budget is done and submitted.
- Content Notice requests – there were 17 titles submitted. Library staff reviewed these titles and voted on whether or not to put the PG sticker on them. An appeal of some of the decisions has been submitted.
 - Discussion ensued amongst the committee members in regard to this Content Notice Review policy, the procedures of the request process and if it was possible to speed it up, and the procedures staff take when inappropriate content is viewed on computers and in other areas of the library.
 - Jessica made a motion to call a special meeting of the Library Committee to review the 15 appealed Content Notice Request titles on Tuesday, June 2nd at 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Shelby seconded.
 - Discussion ensued on how to make the 15 titles available to the Library Committee for the appeal. It was decided to bring them to the meeting to be reviewed by the Committee at that time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business

NEXT MEETINGS:

August 11, 2026 at 12:30pm

November 10, 2026 at 12:30pm

February 9, 2027 at 12:30pm

May 11, 2027 at 12:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

Jessica made a motion for adjournment at 1:48pm. Bonnie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

all Number	Title	Date of Decision	Decision	Reason for Decision
E 305.3 THO	It Feels Good to Be Yourself	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction title with identifiable subtitle on the cover

E 306.768 HER	I am Jazz	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction topic, content doesn't meet criteria
E 611 STI	Bare Naked Book	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction topic, no explicit content
E HAA	Prince & Knight	5/11/2026	No	No explicit content
E HEA	Why? A Story for Kids Who Have Lost a Parent to Suicide	5/11/2026	No	Identifiable subtitle on the cover, no explicit content
E LOV	Julian is a Mermaid	5/11/2026	No	Content doesn't meet criteria
E NEI	Rainbow Parade	5/11/2026	No	Content doesn't meet criteria, no explicit content
E PAR	The Family Book	5/11/2026	No	Content doesn't meet criteria
E SIL	Jack Not Jackie	5/11/2026	No	Content doesn't meet criteria
GN YA FIC OSE	Heartstopper	5/11/2026	Yes	Includes profanity or strong language
J 305.3 BRA	You Be You	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction topic, no explicit content
J 362.76 KLE	The Right Touch	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction title with identifiable subtitle on the cover, no explicit content
J 612.661 SAL	Changing You	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction title with identifiable subtitle on the cover, no explicit content
J 613 IST	Is this Normal?	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction topic, no explicit content
J 613.9071 SIL	Sex is a Funny Word	5/11/2026	No	Non-fiction topic, no explicit content
J FIC COV	Lucy Lancaster Has a Secret	5/11/2026	No	Content doesn't meet criteria
YA FIC MAN	Open Secrets	5/11/2026	Yes	Includes profanity or strong language