

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of Meeting

August 21, 2025

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Jan Canterbury. Board members Sandra Dupree, Deborah Gilliam, Milton Melton, Stephanie Smith, Bill Jones, and Amanda Norris were present. Absent from the meeting were Richard Pyles and Eric McCulloch. Library Director Jeremy Bolom was also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

Ms. Dupree made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Melton seconded the motion. All yes, motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Dupree made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Melton seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Canterbury called on Bill Jones, Chair of the Events Center Committee, to present policy changes regarding the service and consumption of alcohol for Renters of the Events Center. Mr. Jones stated that the proposed policy changes would allow the Events Center to generate a better revenue stream. His committee based their policy on the City of Ruston's policy, which has years of use with few issues. He then went over each change and addition to the Events Center policy and rental agreement. These included a few changes unrelated to alcohol use and address concerns and issues that were brought to the committee's attention by Events Center Coordinator, Kacey Richard. After reviewing all proposed and revised documents, Mr. Jones made three motions for approval in global. He moved a) to request the LPPJ to amend its ordinance to allow the Library to permit the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Library Events Center, provided that the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages is done in compliance with the Library's policies and rules as approved by the LPPJ; b) to approve and adopt the revised "Lincoln Parish Library Events Center Policy," the "Library Events Reservation Request Form and Rental Agreement" and the "Library Events Center Service or Consumption of Alcohol Request Form and Agreement" presented at this Board meeting, subject to the LPPJ approval of the Library's request of the LPPJ to allow the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Library Events Center; and c) to direct Bill Jones to coordinate with the LPPJ's counsel to draft the proposed the amendment to the LPPJ ordinance and to present that amendment and the policies and rules adopted in this meeting to the LPPJ for its approval at the LPPJ's earliest opportunity. Mrs. Norris seconded the motion. There were six yeas and one nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Gilliam reported that the Friends of the Library had a board meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5pm in the George Byrnside Room. They discussed volunteer opportunities at upcoming Library Fall activities and a decision to show special appreciation to the staff for their hard work during Summer Reading.

There was no correspondence and communication.

During his financial report, Director Bolom noted that most of the spending remains on track.

He then presented the statistics for July, highlighting increases in patron visits, circulation, and internet use. He then went on to share a comparison of Summer Reading statistics (months May through July) since 2020 which showed gains in library visits, e-services circulation, and public room use but decreases in physical item circulation, internet use, and programming.

In his report, Bolom stated that the Children's department is creating Wonderland for this year's Fall into a Book Festival. Staff have been diligently working on their mandatory yearly trainings, even with continued internet issues. He again noted attendance numbers for Summer Reading programs Brainstem (National Theatre for Children) with 43 attendees, Life-sized Candyland game with 174 players, and the Children's Museum of Monroe's Stuffee with 97 attendees. Library outreach for the month included Grambling University's Tiger Con. Director Bolom also reviewed upcoming outreach for fall, highlighting the annual Board meet and greet and ice cream social taking place before and after (4pm to 6pm) the board meeting next month.

With no further discussions, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.