

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of Meeting

December 18, 2025

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Chair Jan Canterbury. Board members Milton Melton, Stephanie Smith, Richard Pyles, Sandra Dupree, and Bill Jones were present. Absent from the meeting were Deborah Gilliam, Amanda Norris, and Eric McCulloch. Library Director Jeremy Bolom was also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

Director Bolom took a few moments to introduce two staff members from two different departments to the Board.

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

There were no public comments.

Mr. Melton made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2025, meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Canterbury invited discussion to set regular Board meeting dates, time, and place in 2026. Director Bolom noted previous suggestions to move the meetings to the smaller George Byrnside conference room to aid with ease of hearing all speakers in the meetings. No one noted any need to change the date or time of the meetings. Mr. Jones made a motion for the Board to hold its regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 5pm in the George Byrnside Room. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Canterbury then called on Director Bolom to review possible action for landscaping issues on the east side of the Library. Bolom directed members to provided photos to explain the issues with the eleven crape myrtles in the front east corner of the building. One group in front of the building completely obscures the security camera facing the parking lot for that side of the building. Two on the right side of the book drop impede vehicle passage, especially when it rains. The largest group of six, which are planted in front of the LED sign, obscure the sign for travelers along North Vienna Street. Bolom then asked for thoughts and solutions since he wasn't sure how to proceed. The general consensus was to maintain all plants, if possible, and Mr. Jones suggested contacting John Kavanaugh for assessment and to proceed from there. Director Bolom thanked the board for advice and guidance on how to proceed.

During committee reports, Director Bolom noted that the warmers and oven for the Events Center had been ordered, and that the Friends had their annual meeting Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5pm.

There was no correspondence and communication.

Director Bolom presented the month's budget report, noting that all amended amounts had been adjusted on the document, leveling out overages and shortages.

Bolom then provided the statistics for November 2025 pointing out a significant drop in patron visits, but with the holiday season, that is expected. He also noted the first-ever slump in e-materials circulation. Wi-fi numbers were missing counts from November 1-19, due to the current system unable probably count access. Parish IT will be adding Who-Fi to address the issue so that use can be counted accurately.

In his report, Director Bolom highlighted his professional development activities, staff activities, programming, and outreach events, which included two parades and Light the Pines. He asked if any board members were interested in attending the Louisiana Library Association conference in Lake Charles on March 5-7, 2026 to let him know so registrations could be done during early bird registration. He reviewed the "My Favorite Book Tree" contest and was pleased to note its return in 2026. The Piatigorsky Foundation Concert series will return to the Library for a vocal concert on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, and the program calendar for Black History Month is filling up with concerts, history, crafts, and art exhibits, along with the inaugural Black Expo on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

With no further discussion, Ms. Dupree made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.