

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
Minutes of Meeting--May 21, 2026

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

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

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

There were no public comments.

Mr. Melton made the motion to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2026, meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Jones called on Director Bolom to present the Events Center Committee's recommended changes to the Events Center Rental Information and Use Policy. Director Bolom provided a brief history on the need for the changes, highlighting a more renter-friendly format and flow to the overall document. He presented the redline changes to the Events Center Committee at its April 28 meeting, where they were accepted. The additional issues discussed and recommended by the Committee were added as well, including the request for renters to ensure the cleanliness of the parking lot and the removal of the restriction on dancing in carpeted meeting spaces. After a few clarifying questions from Board members, Mr. Pyles made a motion to accepted the recommended changes. Ms. Dupree seconded. All yes, motion approved.

Bolom continued with the Events Center Committee's recommended edit to the Events Center Pricing sheet, which removes the exact pricing for the hiring of off-duty police officers and replacing it with "the current hourly rate per officer as charged by local law enforcement." This would allow for the Library to charge the correct rate to renters without having to get a Board approved pricing list each time the rate increases. Ms. Dupree made a motion to accepted the recommended change. Mr. Melton seconded. All yes, motion approved.

The Events Center Committee's report was covered during the previous agenda items.

Friends Liaison Gilliam said that the Friends are looking for ways to increase membership and that members will be assisting Library staff during Peach Festival.

There was no correspondence and communication.

During his financial report, Director Bolom focused on the "Building & Grounds Maintenance" line. Due to ongoing electrical and HVAC maintenance, part of the budgeted \$500,000 for the renovation project has been spent. Therefore, an amendment will need to occur once the bid is accepted for that project.

Ms. Smith inquired about the underspending in the "Payroll and Benefits" line; Bolom attributed that to the fact that Library staff is rarely at 100% capacity.

Director Bolom then presented the statistics for April 2026. Patron visits, physical and e-circulations, reference, wi-fi usage, and room usage all saw a decrease. Events Center use and programming numbers remained strong, with outreach numbers including the Library's participation in the Senior Expo.

In his report, Bolom mentioned his professional activities and projects, including getting quotes for the removal of damaged linoleum from the two prep kitchens in the Events Center and finishing the concrete underneath. One of the people who were offered an Events Center Assistant position backed out before starting work, so that part-time position was being advertised again, along with the open full-time position in the Children's department. There was an all-staff meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at 8am, and Library Summer Hours begin the Tuesday after Memorial Day, May 26. He reported attendance numbers for John Kyte's Mount Everest talk, a noontime performance by the Ouachita Strummers, and the Literarium. He alerted everyone to the upcoming Summer Reading Kick-off on Saturday, May 30, where Snake ID would be performing again. The Library will also have an activity booth in children's alley at this year's Peach Festival. He concluded by sharing a promotional summer reading flyer which the Library gave out to over 5900 students in Lincoln Parish.

Chair Jones explained the reasons for the Board to consider excluding the back staff work area from the upcoming renovation project, specifically in terms of flooring. The area is almost 5000 square feet, and the estimated project cost would range between \$8-\$10/square foot. The area constitutes 10% of the project cost, and Jones questions whether it is the best use of funds considering the area is not seen by the public, houses only three staff members, and is used for storage. He then asked everyone in attendance to tour the area in question. Director Bolom showed everyone the space, answering questions about different spaces and their uses. He specifically pointed out the Friends room, where donated and discarded Library books are stored between book sales; the room is currently at capacity. During discussion, Police Jury Administrator Courtney Hall reminded the Board that the Police Jury does own the building and that they would most likely prefer to include all areas in the project. Back in the conference room, Chair Jones made a motion to exclude the flooring, meaning to remove it from the upcoming bid to be let later in the summer. Mr. Pyles seconded. During discussion, Police Jury Liaison Mr. Melton agreed with Mr. Hall that the Jury would most likely want all areas included. Ms. Smith also agreed with a complete renovation, citing the age of the carpet and the possibility of future alternative uses for the space. Ms. Dupree agreed that the work would be easier if it was all done at the same time. Mrs. Canterbury asked whether a decision had to be made, and Director Bolom said that the architect recommended that if the project bids came in over budget, the Library could then request a change order to exclude things (such as the discussed area's flooring) and therefore decrease costs. A roll call vote was called by Chair Jones, and Ms. Gilliam, Ms. Smith, Ms. Dupree, Mr. Pyles, Mr. Melton, and Mrs. Canterbury all voted no to exclude the back-staff area flooring from the project. Motion did not carry.

With no further discussions, Mr. Melton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:51pm.