

York County Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes from January 9, 2025 Fort Mill Public Library 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined we had a quorum for the meeting.

Attending board members: Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Susan Piening, Tim Steele, Nancy Nicholson, Laura Milem, and Terry Plumb. Also attending: Martin House (YCL) and Julie Ward (Director YCL).

Welcome to new members: Nancy Nicholson, Laura Milem, and Terry Plumb.

Minutes: The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a correction that Julie Ward will provide regarding the percentage of physical material being checked out.

Board Vice-Chair election: Dennis Getter nominated Nancy Nicholson, seconded by Carol Herring. Terry Plumb nominated himself. Nancy Nicholson was elected unanimously after Terry withdrew his nomination.

Reports:

Director Julie Ward provided statistics for new library cards and public computer usage. The numbers lack information from Clover branch (outside usage of meeting rooms, training – staff attendance and training total hours, one-on-one sessions for the public, and all program stats-- in-house, in-house attendance, virtual, virtual views, outreach and outreach attendance). Clarification on the importance of statistics for the staff was requested. Ward explained that most of the statistics collected were for the State Library's annual report. Other statistics, such as mobile printing or social media subscribers, track specific library services of interest to administration.

Director Julie Ward stated that computer and Internet usage needs will be submitted as a technology plan to the state library in order for the county library system to receive E-rate discounts. This could be as much as 80% of the cost.

- York County Library has funded a mobile app to do self-check-out and provide 24-hour access, and YCL will also add six Wi-Fi boxes in the Rock Hill Library
- She noted a need to “beef up” security cameras inside and outside the libraries over the next three years. These security improvements might require a server upgrade.
- Due to weather concerns, the libraries will close this Friday at noon and will remain closed all day on Saturday.
- Director Ward presented each board member with a toboggan that displays the YCL logo, just in time for the inclement weather.

Treasurer Dennis Getter offered the treasurer's report, reminding the board it is not a summation of the year, just two months. When examining expenditures, keep in mind we are avoiding exceeding the budget, and the total year is the key figure to watch.

Standing Committee Reports:

Policy: Dennis Getter (chair), Susan Piening, and Nancy Nicholson are drafting a collection policy.

Unfinished Business:

Terry Plumb asked about a \$23,000 donation from the Friends for a vehicle that was destroyed by hail. Director Ward reported they have located a replacement and are purchasing it.

New Business:

Committee appointments: Board Chairman Steele named the Strategic Planning Committee—Carol Herring (chair), Terry Plumb, and Laura Milem.

Amendment to By-laws:

Chairman Steele made a motion to decrease public comments — two minutes each speaker, maximum four speakers. Seconded by Terry Plumb.

Tim Steele’s original motion read as follows:

Proposed change to Section 5: Public Comment. The Board may allow public comment at the beginning of the meeting for people that want to address the Board regarding items that are on the meeting's agenda.

If allowed, the Board will listen and not respond. The speaker shall have a two-minute time limit. The Board will hear no more than two speakers that are for and two opposed to any agenda item. There will be a maximum of four speakers at any Board meeting. Those wishing to speak should sign the sheet with all required information. This will be provided by the secretary on a table at the entrance to the meeting room.

Persons wishing to address the Board regarding other library items should contact the Library Director not less than a week before the meeting with the topic for approval. They will have a two-minute time limit. The person will be notified if approval was granted 48 hours before the meeting.

After some discussion (increasing to eight speakers and what constituted “neutral”), Terry Plumb made a motion to amend the original motion to allow four speakers on each topic to have two minutes each, then Dennis Getter made a motion to amend the original motion to allow three speakers on each topic to have two minutes each, and the motion was seconded by Nancy Nicholson. The following is the final version that passed unanimously:

I move to change the bylaws in Article IV, section 5: Public Comment to read as follows:
The Board may allow public comment at the beginning of the meeting for people who want to address the Board regarding items that are on the meeting’s agenda. If allowed, the Board will listen and not respond. The speaker shall have a two-minute time limit. The Board will hear no more than three speakers who are for and three opposed to any agenda item. There will be a maximum of six speakers at any Board meeting. Those wishing to speak should sign the sheet with all required information. This will be provided by the secretary on a table at the entrance to the meeting room. Persons wishing to address the Board regarding other library items should contact the Library Director not less than a week before the meeting with the topic for approval. They will have a two-minute time limit. The person will be notified if approval is granted 48 hours before the meeting.

The Board requested clarification on the term “library items;” concerns were voiced regarding library by-laws’ statement that addresses discretion regarding who is allowed to speak if not approved ahead of

time; Terry Plumb offered to work on wording before the next meeting and also asked why there were no public comments at this meeting.

Dennis Getter introduced a proposed amended document "Computer and Internet Use Policy" that strikes out references to ALA. After questions by Terry Plumb about why ALA would be removed from the library policy wording, Chairman Steele asked Director Ward to provide SC State Librarian Leesa Aiken's letter to show we are following the state's stance.

The motion to accept the proposed amended document introduced by Dennis Getter was seconded by Terry Plumb and passed unanimously.

The meeting continued with a virtual presentation by the auditor who provided a financial statement for the York County Library. The auditor explained the process and offered a favorable report of our library system's finances.

Terry Plumb announced a Friends of the York County Library event, January 26, 2025, at the Rock Hill Public Library at 2 p.m. with Susan Millar Williams as the keynote speaker.

Secretary Carol Herring made a motion to provide an addendum to the October minutes that would enhance the transcription portion. After questions about whether this would be amending minutes were considered (it will not), the motion passed. Both the previously approved minutes and this addition will be part of the official record when submitted and approved by the board. Seconded by Susan Piening. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

After a motion to adjourn by Dennis Getter and a second by Nancy Nicholson, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Carol Herring
Secretary, YCL Board