

**GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

May 19, 2025

Present: Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Dr. Gene Beckner, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mrs. Stephanie Cunningham, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Absent: Mr. James Hoard

Library System Managers Present: Ray Arnett, Branch Library Services Manager; Brian Morrison, Access and Discovery Director; Jerry Osteen, Information Technology Manager; Jennifer Pinkerman, Children's Area Supervisor; Rick Silvers, Facilities Maintenance Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Allen called the meeting to order at 12:01p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, April 28, 2025. Mr. Poore moved to approve as written. Mrs. Collins seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF MESSINEO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mrs. James announced that three of the six scholarship recipients were present at the meeting: Alyssa Batiste, Jules Ray, and Rebekah Agness. Mr. Hill congratulated recipients who had been awarded a scholarship from the Greenville Library Staff Education Fund in memory of Anthony Messineo, and invited each of the recipients present to share about their coursework and its impact on their current roles within the Library System.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY 2026-2028 Technology Plan

Ms. James called attention to the *FY 2026-2028 Technology Plan* draft sent to trustees for their review and consideration and stated that Mr. Osteen was present to walk them through the plan or answers questions as needed. Following a question and Mr. Osteen's response, Mrs. Odom moved to approve the *FY 2026-2028 Technology Plan* as presented. Mr. Baxter seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Ms. James reported that she had responded to a request from the Greenville County Planning Department concerning the Library System's progress toward a few objectives listed in the County's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She stated that she had not been involved in the development of the plan and shared strategies from the plan with which Library System offerings aligned:

- Develop a cultural awareness program that seeks to expand understanding and build respect for diverse viewpoints and lifestyles.
 - The Library System freely offers access to physical items and digital resources in a variety of formats that include "diverse viewpoints and lifestyles".
- Continue to identify new approaches to engage citizens of diverse economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds in the community planning process.
 - The Library System revised its *Meeting Spaces Use Policy* to create more opportunities for walk-in usage.
 - The Library System manages the large digital outdoor sign in front of the Hughes Main Library to promote events and exhibits offered to the public by all the Heritage Green institutions, using images provided by each organization.
- Provide recreational and entertainment choices for all age and ability levels.
 - The Library System offers a sensory story time for children as well as virtual and in-person events for all ages.

- A hearing loop has been installed in the meeting room at a few Library System locations. (Greer, Five Forks, Main, and new Blue Ridge branch)
- American Sign Language interpreters are provided for Library System programs upon request.
- Reduce language barriers in essential service sectors such as public services and healthcare.
 - The application parents/guardians are asked to complete when registering their child for a library card is written in English and Spanish.
 - Information about the Library System's Little Learners Club for children under 5 and a rack card geared to parents/guardians of K5 children is printed in English and Spanish.
 - The Library System maintains an internal list of staff members that can read, speak, and/or write in another language besides English.
- Promote and provide information on the nature of and health benefits related to, healthy eating and active living.
 - The Library System offers materials on a variety of subjects related to healthy eating and active living.
- Encourage residents to supplement personal food sources with gardening and fresh food preservation.
 - The Library System, in cooperation with the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District, offers a Seed Library that's kept stocked year round at the Berea Branch Library.
- Promote historic preservation and enhance the county's historic preservation program.
 - The South Carolina Room of the Library System supports historic preservation through its collection of historic resources located at the Hughes Main Library.
 - Digitized images are available on the Library System's website. For example, we have a large collection of textile mill related images.
 - The Library System paid to have the *Greenville Piedmont* newspaper, published from 1912 to 1995, to be microfilmed for preservation.

Several Library System print pieces were provided to trustees: *2025 Summer Reading Log & Activity Guide*, *Digitize Greenville* rack card, Library System hiking themed bookmark featuring new colors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hill announced that no one from the public had signed up to speak. He stated that trustees would be moving into an Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice concerning Civil Action No. 6:25-cv-02599-DCC, and that they would be relocating to another room in the building. Mr. Baxter so moved. Mrs. Moston seconded and trustees relocated for the Executive Session at 12:20p.

At 2:05p, trustees returned to the public meeting room and Mr. Baxter moved to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Collins seconded and the public session reconvened. Mrs. Collins stated that no action had been taken during the Executive Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Odom so moved. Mrs. Collins seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary