

**Jasper County Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting minutes
4/15/2025**

Present

Trustees:

Julie Mikols, Chair
Glenice Watts, Vice-Chair
Sandi Vito, Secretary
Julie Aloisio
Daniel Gemmell
Samuel Lawton
Billy Weaver

Staff:

Sena Loyd, Director
Abigail Barna-Ashley, Deputy Director
Kelsey Boone, Regional Staff
Darlene Thomas-Burroughs, Hardeeville Branch Manager
Marcia Cleland, Pratt Branch Manager

Guests:

Eileen Cole, President, Friends of Pratt Library
Carolyn Crosby, President, Friends of Hardeeville Library
Beth Miller, Vice-President, Friends of Hardeeville Library

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
January minutes were approved.

Budget and Finance Presentation

Jasper County and AHJ library revenue and expenses are within Trustee approved budgets.
Jasper County is up to date on its quarterly payments to the AHJ library system.

Hardeeville Library Report, *Presented by Darlene Thomas-Burroughs, Hardeeville Branch Manager*

The Hardeeville library has increased its events and is focused on collection development. The General Federation of Women was awarded a grant for \$2,500 for the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” initiative, which donated to the Hardeeville library. The library is extending the children’s book collection with the donation.

The utilization statistics for Hardeeville are below.

<i>Description</i>		January	February	March	Total
Directives Questions		35	63	73	171
Computer Use		236	216	297	749
New Cards Issued		40	47	77	164

Patrons		640	704	775	2,119
Reference Questions		267	259	263	789
Programs/Events					
VITA			51	69	120
American Heart Assoc			6		6
Bright Star Touring			15		15
Bilingual Storytime		4			
Matinee Movie			8		8
Osteostrong				6	6
Mastering Hoopla				6	6
Lepre's Treasure Hunt				13	13
		4	80	94	174
Other Activities/Meetings					
FOHCL* Meetings			7		7
Mentoring/SC Resilience		4	6	7	17
Low Country Legal		2			2

* FOHCL Friends of Hardeeville Community Library

Regional Director's Report, *presented by Sena Loyd, Regional Director*

The Regional Director reported on her first 46 days in the position. She worked from each library and the bookmobile on at least two days since assuming the Regional Director role.

Bookmobile – A series of repairs to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the lighting, air conditioning and roof have been completed or are scheduled.

Grants – The Impact Grant for a Sprinter Van, planned for a mobile library, was rescinded due to federal cuts to library resources. Summer Reading program grants of \$2,000 per county were approved and will be used to launch a multi-county adult, youth and children's summer reading program. Awaiting word on "Plant the Seed" and "T-Mobile Community" grant applications.

Strategic Planning – The Strategic Planning process will begin and will include updated mission statement, community and patron surveys, and trustee input regarding library priorities.

Software Updates – The following software updates were made to enhance library management and services to patrons: Quickbooks, Constant Contact, Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft 365.

Deputy Director's Report, *Presented by Abigail Barna-Ashley*

The Deputy Director's main area of focus is increasing outreach, events, and patron engagement.

Upcoming Events:

- 4/16/2025 – Career Day at the Hardeeville Elementary School. Darlene provided the Regional Staff with details about this event and assisted with coordination.
- Hardeeville 4th Off Main – working to get a table as a vendor and have the Bookmobile attend the event.
- Gopher Hill Festival / Gopher Hill Festival Parade – working to get a table as a vendor and participate in the parade.

Summer Reading Program - The AHJ Regional Library System will use Beanstack, an innovative participation tracking app that will streamline engagement and make it even easier for attendees to track their progress. The Summer Reading Program theme is Color Our World.

Pratt Branch Report, *Presented by Marcia Cleland, Hardeeville Branch Manager*

More patrons are using the temporary library space, as signage at the Pratt Library redirects patrons. MBKahn is fixing the roof in the temporary space.

A diaper locker provided by Over the Moon Diaper Bank provides diapers for Pratt Library patrons. Programs for the quarter also include Story Time, Gardening for Kids, and a Senior Tea Tasting.

Utilization for Quarter:

Patrons	1,366
Computer	153
Reference Questions	380

Special Events and Programs Attendance:

22 Children, 10 Teens, 42 Adults

Pratt Renovations – Unexpected structural changes may delay renovations, with an expected completion timeline at the end of 2025.

Friends of Pratt Library Report, *presented by Eileen Cole*

The Friends of the Pratt Library has seven active committees. The Scholarship Committee will issue two scholarships for local students to attend college in the amount of \$1,000 each. The Community Outreach Committee is supporting reading and speakers' programs. The bake sale and yard sale raised over \$1,000 to be used for book purchases.

Friends of the Hardeeville Library Report, *presented by Carolyn Crosby*

The Hardeeville Friends group reports 60 members: Lifetime – 7; Household – 1; Annual – 52. Book sales for the prior quarter raised \$565.01. The Friends group donated \$1,500 to the Hardeeville Library for technology and the book collection.

Action Items/Trustee Approvals

Increase in County Budget Request: Trustees unanimously approved a Jasper County Budget request of \$298,771, including an increase of \$24,271 for purposes of increased expenses for a cost of living increase for staff, PEBA increases, and additional part-time and full-time staff for the libraries.

Bylaw Change: Trustees unanimously approved the following change to the by-laws: “The regular meetings of the Library Board shall be held quarterly on the 3rd Tuesday of January, April, July, and October, *the exact hour to be set by the Board.*”

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by Sandi Vito, Secretary

Approved: July 15, 2025