

CITY OF SPANISH FORT  
LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA

September 15, 2025

Spanish Fort Community Center, 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Library Board Meeting:  
May 5, 2025
6. Public Participation
7. Old Business
8. New Business
  - a. Librarian Report
  - b. Library Operations & Service Update
  - c. Plans for the **Library's 10th Year Anniversary** celebration

## **Minutes, Spanish Fort Library Board, Monday, May 5, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Library Board of the City of Spanish Fort, Alabama, met Monday, May 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at the Spanish Fort Community Center, that being the scheduled date, time and place of such meeting.

The following Board of Directors were present: Curt Smith, Carl Gustafson, Shane Perry, Stephen Winn and Mary Brabner. Mayor McMillan, City Attorney David Conner, Librarian Shanavia Spencer and City Clerk Rebecca Gaines were also present.

Director Perry gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the prior meeting of April 21, 2025, meeting, were distributed to each member, and Chairman Smith called for any corrections. Chairman Smith announced that the minutes were approved as submitted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Librarian Report***

Chairman Smith called upon Librarian Shanavia Spencer who presented the Librarian's Report. Ms. Spencer stated that the library received 4,146 visitors in March, with 1,300 visits during Mardi Grass week. The library received 3,966 visitors in April, with 1,200 of those visits during Spring Break week. The Library participated in Delta Woods and Waters, presenting outdoor-related Story Time presentations. The presentations received 55 visitors, with limited signage and promotion.

The Summer Reading theme for 2025 will be "Color Our World", and the library is preparing to kick off Summer Reading with a glow themed party on June 3. Registration opens May 12, 2025, and the first 250 persons to sign up will receive a "swag bag", including glow items. As part of Summer Reading, the library will present a "Color Your Plate" program on cooking world cuisine.

Ms. Spencer thanked the Friends of the Library for their support of events, including providing the Kona Ice truck, popcorn and volunteer support. Ms. Spencer also thanked library sponsors for donations and prizes, including Chick-fil-A, Cracker Barrel, Logan's Roadhouse and Sonic, as well as others. Discussion followed.

Ms. Spencer also noted library programing, including Chess Hour on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., as well as the Romantic Book Club and Quiet Book Club programming.

### ***Discussion of Library Policies***

Chairman Smith called upon City Attorney David Conner who discussed Alabama state policy requirements for libraries and proposed amendments to the Spanish Fort Public Library policies. Mr. Conner presented revised policies for the Spanish Fort Public Library. Discussion followed.

### ***Public Participation***

Chairman Smith opened the floor to public participation.

Angie Hayden of Prattville, Alabama, addressed the Library Board. Ms. Hayden objected to the relocation of books to adult sections, claiming that doing such constitutes censorship.

Elizabeth Denham addressed the Library Board. Ms. Denham objected to the relocation of books, stating that the relocation of books constituted targeting LGBTQ populations. Ms. Denham claimed that relocation of LGBTQ themed books constitutes censorship.

Sara Ferguson, 9692 Tanager Lane, Spanish Fort, addressed the Library Board. Ms. Ferguson stated that her children were educated through reading books about different subjects and lifestyles. Ms. Ferguson stated that relocation of books based on ideological concerns violated student rights and constitutes censorship.

Laura Anderson, 31895 Bob White Road, Loxley, addressed the Library Board. Ms. Anderson stated that removing LGBTQ books from the children's section to the young adult or adult section constituted removing the books and constituted censorship. Ms. Anderson stated that materials should not be removed or moved to a different section because they promote an LGBTQ lifestyle.

— Kristi McClellan, 86 Caisson Trace, Spanish Fort, addressed the Library Board. Ms. McClellan stated Ms. McClellan stated that she has spent a great amount of time in the Spanish Fort Library and has not discovered a children's book that she believed was in the incorrect section or was inappropriate for the age group where the book was located. Ms. McClellan stated she believed that age-appropriate books should be offered. She further stated that parents could receive notifications of what books their children checked out. She expressed concern that moving books to a different age group could result in lower circulation, causing those books to be removed from the library collection.

Dr. Kathleen Payne of Spanish Fort addressed the Library Board. Dr. Payne stated, when moving books from the children's section, it potentially takes away from the child's education, and she requested that the Board not adopt policies that remove books which provide information on body parts and education to another section.

Tunisia London of 34124 Burwood Drive, Spanish Fort, addressed the Library Board. Ms. London stated that she is a licensed therapist and resident of Spanish Fort. Ms. London stated her children are avid readers, and the Spanish Fort Library played a great role in their education, serving as a place of discovery and growth. Ms. London stated that children's books that present LGBTQ lifestyles, that are not sexually explicit, should not be removed to young adult or adult sections. She stated that censorship of LGBTQ books sends a message that LGBTQ persons do not belong as part of the community and that no story should be silenced.

Nathaniel Pendergrass, 7182 Maury Circle, Spanish Fort, addressed the Library Board. Mr. Pendergrass stated that the proposed policy identifies the LGBTQ community as morally wrong, and that the proposed policy is discriminatory. Mr. Pendergrass stated that the policy does not represent all populations in Spanish Fort. Mr. Pendergrass stated that moving children's books to a different section such as young adult or adult was equivalent to segregation. Mr. Pendergrass stated that the proposed policy constitutes discrimination.

***Resolution No. L1-2025***

Chairman Smith called upon David Conner who presented Resolution L1-2025, a resolution amending the policies and procedures of the Spanish Fort Public Library. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Director Perry and seconded by Director Brabner to adopt Resolution No. L1-2025. Discussion followed. Chairman Smith called for a polling of votes. Voting "aye" were Directors Smith, Gustafson, Perry, Winn and Brabner. Voting "nay" were none. Chairman Smith declared the Resolution adopted.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

***Adopted and Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.***

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Rebecca A. Gaines  
Secretary