

**FONTANA REGIONAL LIBRARY**  
**Called Joint Meetings of**  
**FRL Board of Trustees and Jackson County Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, June 19, 2025, 5:30 pm**  
**Jackson County Justice and Administration Building**

**Attendance:**

**Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees:**

**Present:** Cynthia Womble - Acting Chair, Marva Jennings, Bill McGaha, Tony Monnat, Deborah Smith, Kathy Smith, Ellen Snodgrass, Lori Richards.

**Absent:** Marsha Moxley

**Other FRL Representatives :**

**Present:** Tracy Fitzmaurice – Regional Director and Ex-Officio Board Member, and Attorney Raymond Large.

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners:**

**Present:** Mark Letson – Chair, Todd Bryson, Michael Jennings, John Smith, Jenny Lynn Hooper.

**Other Jackson County Representatives:**

**Present:** John Kubis, Jackson County Attorney (Virtually by Zoom)

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Opening Remarks**

**a. Opening Remarks from Jackson County**

The stated purpose of the meeting was for the Commissioners “to get information.” Chairman Letson, in his opening remarks, specifically noted they were interested in “processes,” to gain financial information and to make some requests for the FRL Board to take back.

**b. Opening Remarks from Fontana Regional Board of Trustees**

Acting Chair Womble, in her opening remarks, noted that the FRL is chartered as both a Local Governmental Agency and a 501c3 Non-Profit. She spoke of some of the requirements according to law based on that charter. She also noted that within the last year there has been almost 100% turnover in the Board. She also noted that there is information online including policies, audits, and budgets at the FRL website and that a number of our policies are either currently or will soon be reviewed. She relayed that both the FRL Director and Finance Officer work for

the FRL Board of Trustees, and any concerns or comments about their performance should come to the Board. Any concerns with the functioning of a library should be taken to the Regional Director, or in the case of Jackson County Library, to the Board.

### **III. Discussion and Questions**

The questions / comments from the commissioners fell into three broad categories. General (including FRL organization and personnel), money / funding, books / materials (ordering / review / challenging / appropriateness). Answers were primarily provided by Ms. Womble and Ms. Fitzmaurice. All distinct questions were answered in detail in accordance with current policies and procedures. Answers often resulted in follow-up questions. There was one area of disagreement noted in the material appropriateness in the following section.

#### **Overview of Primary Questions Asked / Statements by Category.**

##### **a. General:**

1. Requirements to be appointed to the FRL Board of Trustees.
2. Organization / personnel at FRL HQ; responsibilities of personnel; Director position full or part time; Director also being county librarian; reporting chain?
3. Did Jackson County “illegally” appoint any trustees?
4. Regarding specific programming, are libraries independent or guided by FRL Director?
5. Answer to # 4 mentioned Long Range Plan so a question was asked about that plan and its process.
6. A question was asked regarding what services the JC library provided to JC. When clarified, the question was specifically about the JC library staff- why so many are needed; what services do they provide?
7. Has there ever been any sex offenders reported in a library?

##### **b. Money / Funding**

1. [Statement] Most of the funding is from the counties.
  - a. Does the FRL collect / receive other funds such as grants?
  - b. Do the funds the counties provide stay in the counties?
2. State aid amount and JC share was mentioned / confirmed.
3. Who develops the budgets for the libraries?
4. What are the charges for community room use?
  - a. Does the money from community room rent go to the county or stay in FRL?
5. Who pays utility expenses?
6. Does the library / FRL pay rent for the facilities?

**c. Books / Materials – Ordering / Purchasing & Appeals and Challenges**

**1. Books / Materials – Ordering / Purchasing**

- a. Who orders new books?
- b. Is it a committee or individual?
- c. Is there an audit of use / checkout?
- d. Any community input to what is purchased?
- e. Any input to an order list once developed?
- f. Could book orders be reviewed by an advisory board or others have input?
- g. How many books are purchased in a week / year?
- h. Do others [such as Friends of the Library or individuals] order / give books?

**2. Books / Materials - Appeals / Challenges**

- a. If a book is challenged / appealed what is the process?
  - i. First step is to fill out the document?
  - ii. Does the Board see the book?
  - iii. Is it the Board's decision to move a book?
  - iv. If the board says a book should be moved, what would you [Ms. Fitzmaurice] do?
- b. How many books have been successfully challenged / removed?  
\* Name of the book?
- c. How many books have been reclassified (since 2020)?
- d. Comment – Probably not many challenges because people do not know the process.
- e. You're telling me [Are you telling me?] it is illegal to move It's Perfectly Normal from the Juvenile Section?
- f. Question / comment about Juvenile Card vis-à-vis the Parent's Bill of Rights.
- g. If 100 books were appealed how long would it take [to review /rule]?

**3. Books / Materials - Appropriateness**

- a. Who sets the age for books [content appropriateness]?
- b. Any oversight of the publisher?

#### **IV. Other Discussion:**

The commissioners had a list of books with what they believed were inappropriate materials [presumably photos] for children that they wanted to present [on a screen] to the Board so that the Board could better understand the commissioners' concerns. The Jackson County Attorney opined that such material could be presented in either open or closed session.

Some FRL Board members and the FRL Attorney spoke against that since there is a process for challenging material, and there was nothing that could be done about material without an appeal and a review of the entire work.

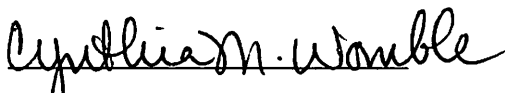
Other Board members contended that the materials should be viewed since Jackson County is considering leaving the FRL, and we should see what is objectionable to them and what gives them concern. Ultimately, the Commission Chairman decided not to show the materials.

In Chairman Letson's opening remarks, he specifically noted they were interested in "processes," to gain financial information, and to make some requests for the FRL Board to take back." It seemed that the "processes" and financial information were directly addressed in answers to specific questions. There were no specific requests made to the FRL Board "to take back." However, throughout the meeting, there was reference to policies and procedures, and that some are in need of review, and all of which are subject to review. It was stated to the Commissioners that the plan is to continue that process beyond the current review of the Circulation Policy at the July 8 Board meeting.

Near the end of the meeting, FRL Board members were given time to make statements on any matter. At the end, Ms. Fitzmaurice invited commissioners to visit and tour the library with her.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted.  
Bill McGaha  
Interim Secretary



Cynthia Womble, Acting Chair

07/08/25

Date



Tracy Fitzmaurice, Director

7/9/25

Date