

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. Box 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA
70804-9005

**Louisiana Open Meeting Law
Complaint Form**

NOTE: This signed Complaint Form should be mailed to Louisiana Attorney General Office, ATTN: Civil Division, P.O. Box 94005, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, faxed to 225-326-6098, and/or emailed to carbonettem@ag.louisiana.gov and MoranA@ag.louisiana.gov, once fully complete and any supporting documents necessary are attached. Your complaint will not be processed further if the Complaint Form is not completed with all necessary information and returned with all necessary supporting documentation.

NAME OF COMPLAINANT: Amanda Jones

ADDRESS : PO Box 258, Watson, LA, 70786

PHONE NUMBER: 225-603-6306

EMAIL: lplibraryalliance@gmail.com

NAME OF THE PUBLIC BODY:

Livingston Parish Library Board of Control

CITY/PARISH:

Livingston, LA in Livingston Parish

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE MEETING:

December 4, 2024

NAME OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

Larry Davis, Dewanna Christian, Summer Smith, Abby Crosby

DESCRIBE ALLEGED OPEN MEETINGS LAW VIOLATION:

The LBOC held an open meeting on December 4, 2024. That meeting's time and place was properly noticed, but the LBOC nevertheless violated the law in other ways. The agenda for the December 4, 2024 meeting identified only two items for discussion: the budget and funds dedicated for capital projects. Nevertheless, the LBOC purported to vote to elect officers. Any item requiring a vote is an action that must be identified on a meeting's agenda. See §44:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb) ("Each item on the agenda shall be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Before the public body may take any action on an item, the presiding officer or his designee shall read aloud the description of the item ...").

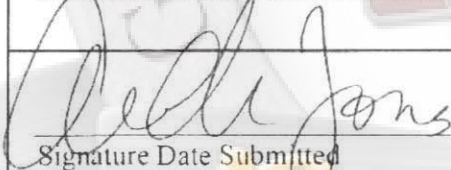
The LBOC purported to amend the agenda for the December 4, 2024 meeting to include the election of officers, but it did not allow public comment before its vote on the amendment. The law requires the allowance of public comment prior to any amendment to the agenda. See §44:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(cc) ("Prior to any vote on the motion to take up a matter not on the agenda by the public body, there shall be an opportunity for public comment").

The LBOC also did not allow public comment prior to its vote to elect officers. The law requires the allowance of public comment prior to any vote. See § 42:14(D) (the public body "shall allow a public comment period at any point in the meeting prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken").

Any action taken in violation of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law is voidable. See § 42:24. The law states that the attorney general "shall institute such proceedings upon a complaint filed with [her] by any person, unless written reasons are given as to why the suit should not be filed." See § 42:25.

*Please attach to this complaint all evidence on which you base your allegation. i.e. the agenda, minutes of the meeting at issue, any recording of the meeting, etc.

COMPLAINANT SIGNATURE:


Signature

12/18/2024
Date Submitted

Amanda Jones
Printed Name

Please note:

This complaint and any written communications with our office are public records, subject to production under the Louisiana Public Records Act, La. R.S. 44:1, *et seq.* This complaint form will be presented to the public body respondent for a response. The complaint may also be attached to any enforcement action that we may file in court pursuant to the Open Meetings Law. If such an enforcement action is brought, you may be called as a witness in the litigation as the complainant.

Supporting Documents:

Agenda (attached)

Meeting Minutes: Not yet posted and approved

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-uL4mVkX_Q





Original Notice Posted: November 15, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
First Addendum Posted: November 18, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Second Addendum Posted: November 18, 2024, 3:30 p.m.
Continuation Notice Posted: December 3, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

**NOTICE OF CONTINUATION OF RECESSED REGULAR BOARD
MEETING FROM 11/19/24**

Livingston Parish Library Board of Control

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. CST

Place of Meeting: Denham Springs-Walker Branch, 8101 US Highway 190, Denham Springs
LA, 70726 [West Meeting Room]

Online Streaming Location: www.youtube.com/@mylplibrary/streams

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING / REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Livingston Parish Library Board of Control [COMPLETED on 11/19/24]

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. CST

Place of Meeting: Main Branch Library, 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, LA 70754

Online Streaming Location: www.youtube.com/@mylplibrary/streams

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. **Public Hearing:** A public hearing on the Livingston Parish Library's amended budget for the fiscal year 2024 and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025, including Operating and Capital Outlay.
6. **Close Public Hearing**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA (Directly following Public Hearing)

[RECESSED ON 11/19/24 FOR LATER CONTINUATION]

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. August 13, 2024 – Special Meeting [ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]
 - b. September 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting [ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

5. Director's Report [DISCUSSED ON 11/19/24]

- a. 2024 January-October Library Usage Statistics
- b. Facility Maintenance Updates

6. Special Orders

- a. Election of Livingston Parish Library Board of Control Officers for 2025 **[ACTION TAKEN TO RETAIN CURRENT OFFICERS UNTIL THE JANUARY 2025 MEETING ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Elect Board President
 - ii. Elect Board Vice President
- b. Discussion & Approval: To approve the adjusted FY 2024 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects Budgets **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
- c. Discussion & Approval: To approve the adjusted FY 2025 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects Budgets
- d. Discussion & Approval: Dedicate funds to Capital Projects

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion & Adoption: Livingston Parish Library Strategic Plan for 2025-2029
- b. Presented by David Gray, Public Information Officer **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**

8. New Business

- a. Discussion & Approval: Audit engagement and contract renewal with Baxley and Associates, LLC **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Michelle Parrish, Director
- b. Discussion & Resolution: To investigate the creation of a "New Adult" collection. **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Shalisha Labat, Board Member
- c. Discussion & Resolution: Whether "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" by Jesse Andrews meets the criteria outlined in LA RS 25:225C(2)(d)(ii) and the definition provided in LA RS 25:225B(4) as claimed by a complainant who submitted a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (3-309a), and whether to move this material to another collection based on this challenge. **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Abby Crosby, Board Member
- d. Discussion & Resolution: Whether "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky meets the criteria outlined in LA RS 25:225C(2)(d)(ii) and the definition provided in LA RS 25:225B(4) as claimed by a complainant who submitted a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (3-309a), and whether to move this material to another collection based on this challenge. **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Abby Crosby, Board Member
- e. Discussion & Resolution: To investigate the potential of entering into an intergovernmental agreement between the Livingston Parish Library and the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office for security for the library. **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Abby Crosby, Board Member
- f. Discussion & Approval: Policy Change – to amend Code: 2-202a, Public Speaking Policy, Board Meetings, to include verbiage from the Livingston Parish Council LPR No. 24-387: "to require anyone wishing to speak under public input and for public speaking to submit in writing their name and address and upon addressing the board before giving their public input, state their name and what

area they are from (i.e., the Parish, Council District, city.)" **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**

- i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services
- g. Discussion & Adoption: Livingston Parish Library 2025 Closure Schedule, including Holidays, Events, and Training; including discussion on moving the Juneteenth closure from June 19 to the third Saturday in June per LA RS 1:58.2B **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services
- h. Discussion & Approval: Surplus Items for Disposal **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services

9. Adjournment

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control will **ADD** by addendum the following item(s) on the agenda for the November 19, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board:

- a. **A-1: Discussion & Resolution:** To have monthly Livingston Parish Library Board of Control open meetings starting in December until all books in the queue for review for explicitness are reviewed and voted on. **[ACTION TAKEN ON 11/19/24]**
 - i. Presented by Dewanna Christian, Board Member

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control will **ADD** by addendum the following item(s) on the agenda for the November 19, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board:

- b. **A-2: Executive Session:** To discuss the process of reviewing books, rules for ordering books, and who is in charge of that task. **[ITEM WITHDRAWN]**
 - ii. Presented by Summer Smith, Board Member

Name of Authorized Person: Michelle Parrish /s/
Name of Taxing District: Livingston Parish Library
Address: 13986 Florida Blvd., Livingston, LA 70754
Telephone Number: 225-686-4100

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Library Administration at 226-686-4100 and describe the necessary assistance.