

**Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board**

**October 28,2021 – 1:00 pm**

**Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room**

**Members in Attendance:**

Todd Robinson  
Tavanasha Shepard  
Darcey Brito  
Donovan Granville, Chair  
LaRae Dixon Moore  
Sebastian Cahill  
Beth Schwartz  
Denise Eckley

**Also in Attendance:**

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL  
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director, CVL  
Tracie Price, Finance/HR  
Tammy Battley, Operations  
Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement  
Amber Brookins, Materials Management  
Katie Burnett, Branch Manager, CPL  
Connie McCoy, Lead Custodian  
Melissa Mollett, Financial Services  
Specialist  
Laura Ann Mann, Muscogee County  
Library Foundation  
Andrea Atkins, ILS Manager

Chair Granville called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Chair Granville asked for **approval of the minutes** from the August 26, 2021 meeting. LaRae Moore moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Todd Robinson. Motion was approved unanimously by Robinson, Shepard, Brito, Granville, Moore, Cahill, Schwartz, and Eckley.

**Public Comment** – None

**Friends of the Library** – Alan Harkness stated the recent book sale was a success, stating the Friends setting a one-day record for money made from the sale. They netted approximately \$3000.

**Muscogee County Library Foundation** – Foundation Director Mann stated that the Wine, Women, and Shoes event was postponed to March 10, 2022. The Gala is set to be on January 20, 2022 and will host author Lisa Wingate. The Foundation will continue to look at current COVID19 numbers in the local area before making a final decision on the aforementioned events. The Foundation Board will meet on November 9, 2021.

**Treasurer's Report** – Tracie Price covered the Period 3 financials which ended on September 30, 2021. There were no follow up questions.

**Director's Report** – Alan Harkness recognized Connie McCoy for her dedication to the library and the Muscogee County School District. McCoy is retiring on October 29, 2021 after 49 years of service. Harkness reminded the board that StoryCorps will be at the library for another two weeks and encouraged them to schedule an appointment and

share their stories. Harkness mentioned that work has already started on the Children's Book Festival in 2022. Harkness stated that the Dare to Lead sessions for supervisors has ended. Harkness went into detail about the Summer Learning Experience partnership with MCSD and how it was successful with the district having 37 partners. Harkness gave an update on the Cusseta branch. They should have a roof by the end of November 2021 and looking at an opening date in March 2022. Harkness updated on the South Columbus Public Library renovation and reported that they plan to move to a temporary location in the next three to six months. Harkness was pleased to announce that the North Columbus Public Library has a new roof. Half of this expenditure was reimbursed by state dollars. Harkness reported they would be starting the HVAC project soon. Harkness reported on the progress in developing a job description and partnership with the FERST Readers program. Harkness thanked Darcey Brito for serving on the Regional Board. Harkness reported that the library is hoping to open meeting rooms back up in January 2022 and start phasing in programming after that as conditions allow. Harkness then handed the floor to Gabriel Lundeen, Tiffany Wilson, Katie Burnett, and Tracie Price to go over the new **Strategic Plan**.

**Branch Report** – Deputy Director Lundeen stated that the branches are starting to see more and more people return to the libraries. Lundeen excitedly announced that while the branches have not been seeing pre-COVID numbers, branch managers and staff took the initiative to do more outreach to continue helping the community. Lundeen shared a heart-warming story from the Mildred L. Terry Public Library, which board member Brito insisted should be shared with the public.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** –

**Close the Columbus Public Library early on March 10, 2022 for Wine, Women, and Shoes.** Motion to accept made by Moore. Motion was seconded by Eckley. Motion was approved unanimously by Robinson, Shepard, Brito, Granville, Moore, Cahill, Schwartz, and Eckley.

**Operations Committee** –

**Job Description – Library Assistant I – Branch Services.** The committee met before the board meeting to consider this job description change. Harkness discussed the job description, what the changes were, and why the changes are needed. Chair Granville opened the floor to staff that was in attendance for an input they had on the job description and what it means for the library. Motion to approve the job description came from the committee, motion was seconded by Cahill. Motion was approved unanimously by Robinson, Shepard, Brito, Granville, Moore, Cahill, Schwartz, and Eckley.

**Chair's Report** – Chair Granville stated this meeting may be his last meeting and he's enjoyed serving on the board.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.**