

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

February 24, 2022 – 1:00 pm

Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room

Members in Attendance:

Marion Scott, Chair
Todd Robinson
Tavanasha Shepard
Darcey Brito
Sebastian Cahill
Beth Schwartz
Grace Nagel
Reggie Lewis
Robert Landers

Also in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director, CVL
Tracie Price, Finance/HR
Tammy Battley, Operations
Amber Brookins, Materials Management
Katie Burnett, Branch Manager, CPL
Laura Ann Mann, Muscogee County
Library Foundation
Marnie Salter, Friends of the Library

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Chair Scott asked for **approval of the minutes** from the January 27, 2022 meeting. Todd Robinson moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Darcy Brito. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Robinson, Shepard, Brito, Cahill, Schwartz, Nagel, Lewis, and Landers.

Chair Scott welcomed new board member Robert Landers.

Public Comment – None

Friends of the Library – Marnie Salter reported no updates.

Muscogee County Library Foundation – Foundation Executive Director Mann stated that the Wine, Women, and Shoes event has raised to date \$450,000 and her goal is to exceed \$500,000. She also reported that the Foundation is happy to be able to support the renovation of the South Columbus Public Library. The Board has approved support up to 1.2M and they are working on naming rights opportunities.

Treasurer's Report – Tracie Price covered the Period 7 financials which ended on January 31, 2022. She also covered a summary report on the South Columbus Public Library expenditures so far. There were no follow up questions.

Director's Report – Alan Harkness presented the blood pressure cuff kits sponsored by the American Heart Association. These will be available to check out for 30 days.

Harkness said that budget preparation was underway and that we would be bringing that to the Board next month for review and approval.

Harkness announced that we have received a \$10,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan to help with funding the Children's Book Festival.

Harkness mentioned that the Department of Public Health will discontinue the vaccine stations at the library at the end of February or March? We always have great partnerships with the DPH and thank them for their efforts.

Harkness stated that beginning Monday 2/28/22, the library will be mask optional. Additionally, in-house programming will begin again on March 1st which will help gear things up for the Children's Book Festival on May 14, 2022.

Harkness explained that the library would have a larger role in our partnership with MCSD and the Summer Learning Experience this June. The event takes place in June and is a great way to push for our summer reading events in July.

Harkness will be serving on the Columbus Rotary Board and also the Sandra Dunagan Deal Early Literacy Board.

Branch Report – Deputy Director Lundeen reported that the annual In Service All Staff training event took place this past Monday. It went well and we have high hopes for an in-person event next year. Lundeen shared some antidotal stories about groups coming back to the library and reforming partnerships. Hopefully this is a peek into a return to some sort of normal.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

Operations Committee –

Changes to Pay Bands C, D, & E. Director Harkness summarized the changes made to the proposed Pay Bands. There was some brief discussion. Motion to approve the pay band changes came from the committee, motion was seconded by Todd Robinson. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Robinson, Shepard, Brito, Cahill, Schwartz, Nagel, Lewis, and Landers.

Chair's Report – Chair Scott took a moment to thank Mr. Harkness, his team, the staff, volunteers, and the Foundation for all that they do. Chair Scott then asked Board members to please sign up for a preferred standing committee after the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be March 17, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 pm.