

## Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

May 26, 2022 – 1:00 pm

### Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room

Members in Attendance:

Marion Scott, Chair

Sebastian Cahill

Grace Nagel

Reggie Lewis

SirMichael Jones

LaRae Dixon

Susan Berry

Also in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL

Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director

Tracie Price, Finance/HR

Laura Ann Mann, Exec. Director MCLF

Marnie Salter, Friends of the Library

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Chair Scott asked for **approval of the minutes** from the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting.

LaRae Dixon moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Reggie Lewis.

Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Lewis, Dixon, Berry and Jones.

**Public Comment** – None

**Friends of the Library** – No report

**Muscogee County Library Foundation** – The Foundation Operations Committee is working on adding three new trustees to the board. The Foundation Board has voted to not hold the Wine, Women & Shoes fundraiser again in the fall. They will instead hold a different fundraiser that does not require that type of contract. They are considering hosting an event called Cocktails & Comedy with a comedian instead of the fashion show. If they do host this event the Foundation will be requesting permission from the board to close early the day prior for preparations. The Foundation will also be holding a Spring event that will be literary themed and an exclusive premier of “Where the Crawdads Sing”, prior to its release.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Tracie Price covered the Period 10 financials which ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She noted that the report also had a correction in the revenue portion. There were no questions.

**Director’s Report** – The Aflac Summer Reading Program started on May 14<sup>th</sup> with the Columbus Children’s Book Festival. This year the CVL will host two Golden Ticket Tuesdays, on May 31<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>. The winners of the scratch cards will get a \$50 visa card. Summer Reading Experience with the Muscogee County School District will not just have programs in the library buildings but staff are also bringing the programs to the schools, for a total of 80 additional programs this year.

The Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library ribbon cutting is on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Director Alan invited everyone to attend. The CVL is considering installing convenience lockers as a pilot program at CCCPL. These would allow the public to access their holds outside of library hours. If this works at CCCPL then they will be considered for all of the other branches as well.

Director Alan's evaluation is coming up in July. A 360 survey will be going out the MCLB members and CVL staff.

The Columbus Children's Book Festival was a success. The weather was great, several thousand people came out, a good number of people signed up for library cards, as well as for First Readers. All of the authors made a great impact. Each author visited two schools in the days prior to the festival. Friends of the Library sold over \$7,000 worth of books and over \$200 worth of other items.

"The Clothes Story" starts June 10<sup>th</sup> and will run through June 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of the Juneteenth celebrations in Columbus. It will be displayed in the Grand Reading Room. Presently there is a small exhibit about Black Female Writers on the second floor which is being toured around the state. The Basics had their 3rd Anniversary party on May 13<sup>th</sup> here at the Columbus Public Library.

**Branch Report** - Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen gave the branch report. This year so far, we have 588 new card holders and up from the same time last year. Of those last year new card holders 244 are still presently active. Outreach events are also up. Programs such as the Book Mobile have been asked for at many Saturday events. Rise in staff being invited to senior centers, recreational centers, Riverfest and more.

Summer reading is not just reaching kids in the community but also adults. At the South Branch there is a soldier diagnosed with Dyslexia who has finally received help and is beginning to read on his own. He is participating in the summer reading program. At the Columbus Branch a local entrepreneur has thanked the library staff for all the help he has received here in the launching and running of his business. At Mildred Terry a student who was 9 years when they were removed from their parent's custody and placed in the custody of their grandparents, was greatly helped during that hard time as a child by the library staff. They reconnected with the staff there. That person is now pursuing a nursing degree and has been honorably discharged from the military.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Approval of the Final 2022-2023 Budget

The Finance Committee was unable to meet prior to the meeting so this item is being presented to the entire board for the first time. Director Alan went over the items in the budget that have changed and need approval. The board had already approved the salary increase for pay bands C & D. This budget allows for a 3% raise for those who did not receive a raise earlier. There is an expenditure to replace an air conditioning unit at Mildred Terry that has failed, and for the CVL rebranding project. Sebastian Cahill moved to approve the budget. Motion was seconded by Grace Nagel. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Lewis, Dixon, Berry and Jones.

**Chair's Report** – Chair Scott took a moment to thank Director Harkness, and his team for the great work they are doing for the community. She thanked everyone.

**Next meeting is set tentatively for July 28, 2022.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:28**

