Minutes from the Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
August 27, 2020- 1:00 pm
Via GoToMeeting

Members in Attendance:
John Boyd, Chair
Todd Robinson
Tamika McKenzie
Cyndy Ceribin
Grace Nagel
David Fox
Darcy Brito
Denise Eckley
Gayla Arrington
LaRae Dixon Moore

Also In Attendance:
Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Felecia Malave, Admin. Assis.t to the Director
Tammy Battley, Operations Coordinator
Tracie Price, Finance and HR Coordinator
Pepper Grimmet, Manager, Parks Memorial Public Library
Jeannine Scott, Manger, North Columbus Public Library
Dr. David Lewis, MCSD Superintendent
Amber Brookins, Materials and Statistics Coordinator
India Smith, Volunteer Coordinator
Katie Burnett, Manager, Columbus Public Library
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director
Laura Ann Mann, Director, Muscogee Co. Library Foundation
Sharron Lyon, Friends of the Library
Van Montesclaros, IT Coordinator
Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator
Staff from South Columbus Public Library
Mark Rice, Columbus Ledger Enquirer

Chair John Boyd called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Chair Boyd asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 2 and July 30, 2020. Todd Robinson moved to approve both sets of minutes, Grace Nagel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharron Lyon, President of the Friends on the Library, reported there has not been much going on since the Library closed in March. The Friends have postponed all sales and the board will meet soon to plan future sales.

Laura Ann Mann, Director of the Muscogee County Library Foundation, reported their board has continued to meet and plan to support the Library with $800,000 plus purchases on behalf of the library. Wine, Women and Shoes will not happen this year due to Covid, but the Foundation will be completing their annual Letter Writing Campaign and host a virtual event called "Literature and Libations." More information about that will be announced on social media soon.

The foundation will be bringing Bacari Sellers for their author event in January. The event will take place January 28th. Details are still being worked out if this will be in person/virtual/mix.

Treasurer's Report - Tracie Price reviewed the June revenue and expense reports. She reports FY'20 is not officially closed yet and the $1.5 million air conditioner project is not on the list.

Director's Report – Director Alan Harkness reports the library has applied for CARES money to help offset costs of outfitting the branches for COVID-19 safety. Nearly $9,000 has been spent to put plexiglass at customer interaction points in the branches. The library is working to get more hot spots to send out into the community, along with better wifi devices on the Bookmobiles to help patrons outside the library. Audiobooks are switching to Overdrive on August 31st.
10% of cardholders have used the library since the shutdown in March and digital usage is up 30%. The system has sent out nearly 1 million messages to patrons. 1,500 inactive users have become active and 6,000 occasional users have become active. The air is working correctly in CPL finally.

Branch Report – Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen reports Curbside service is being received very well by the community, CPL and North have been the busiest. Book bundles have been a hit with patrons. Curbside printing is being used a lot by patrons as well. The system is not currently signing people up for library cards, but patrons can register for an e-card and upgrade at curbside pickup if needed. Staff is continuing to prep for virtual programs in the Fall, as well as virtual book clubs. The bookmobiles will be going out Monday.

New Business -
        - Moving to Reopening Phase 2a – LaRae Dixon Moore moved to allow the library to move to Phase 2A on September 8 and 2B at the director discretion. Gayla Arrington seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by those in attendance.

Chair Report – John Boyd reminded everyone to show grace to others during this difficult time.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 1:43 pm.