

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
Regional Board Meeting
October 16, 2025 – 5:30 PM
South Columbus Public Library

In attendance; Board members; Vice Chair Darcy Brito, Judy Barnett, Susan Berry, Donovan Granville, and Seleta Rogers. Also attending, Alan Harkness, Director of CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries). Katie Burnett, Asst. Director of Public Services (CVL), Pepper Grimmert, Branch Manager South Columbus Public Library (CVL), and Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, (CVL)

- I. Call to Order – Vice Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- II. **Approval of July 17, 2025, meeting minutes** – Berry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, and Rogers.
- III. Comment – There were no comments. There were no comments.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Director Harkness presented the treasurer’s report. Revenues for Period 2, ending August 31, 2025, are exceeding expenses. Budget is on track.
- V. Director’s Report – Director Harkness presented the Director’s report. Director Harkness went over the CVL Dashboard Report. Cardholders are nearing 29,000 with a retention rate of 44% and a market share holding steady at 20%. While physical circulation is down 3% e-materials circulation has risen by 23%. In person visits is down by 6% however website visitors have increased by 11%. Computer use is still climbing but not yet reaching pre-COVID levels.

Summer Reading was a great success. The CVL Library system reached a goal of 2.1 million minutes read, surpassing the goal of 2,025,000 minutes. This year CVL decided to recognize the schools in MCSD that participated in Summer Reading. The top three schools awarded for the highest percentage of their student bodies participating were Britt David Magnet Academy, Lonnie Jackson Academy, and Middle Academy. The Read More Award was awarded to the top three schools with the most year-to-year growth in Summer Reading participation, Brewer Early Innovation Academy, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, and Forrest Road Elementary. The principals were invited to receive the award plaque for their schools at the MCSD Board meeting in a small ceremony. It made local, state, and national library news. The Early Childhood Department and Children’s Department Outreach efforts were vital to the success of Summer Reading.

The CVL Libraries will be sending six staff members and two library board members, Judy Barnett, and Asante Hilts to the Public Library Association Conference 2026 in Minneapolis, Minnesota in April. The CVL Libraries also sent several staff members to the Georgia Libraries Association Conference that was held last week here in Columbus,

The Columbus Public Library will be hosting several Authors this month. Author and Poet Pdraig Rooney on Tuesday, October 21st and authors Karen Spears Zacharias and E.J. Wade on October 28th. November 13th is the Muscogee County Library Foundation largest annual fundraiser, Cocktails and Comedy. Director Harkness encourages everyone who can come to participate. The tickets are \$100 per person. This year’s comedian is Karen Morgan.

Director Harkness listed some possible authors and illustrators that the CVL is looking to have at next year’s Columbus Children’s Book Festival in April. CVL has applied for a federal grant to

celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States with a program honoring US culture through food. The *Food and the Soul of America* program will be running through all the CVL branches with featured cookbook authors, and speakers, including cookbook authors and TV show host Vera Stewart. If the CVL is not awarded the grant, the MCLF will cover the cost of this event.

Last Tuesday Director Harkness and several other administrative staff went to view the former Georgia Military College Campus site on 7300 Blackmon Road as a possibility for the new North Columbus Public Library. It is in the right location, and the right size needed. Next week Director Harkness will be touring the facility with the architect and contractor who worked on South along with the head of plant services for the MCSD to point out reasons that CVL should not invest in this property. Director Harkness will keep all the boards updated.

The Stewart County Library Board has decided to postpone plans for the Park Memorial Public Library renovation. They have not been able to raise any local funds, and the company that renovated the SCPL stated that one million would not be enough to renovate Parks. Parks has a new branch manager, and the city will be electing a new mayor. The SCLB will revisit these plans in a year.

Director Harkness is expecting to have both Bookmobiles re-wrapped by the end of the year. One of the drivers resigned and the other driver, Dorsey Stancil, is retiring in two weeks after 26 years. CVL has already hired new bookmobile drivers.

VI. Unfinished Business – There was none.

VII. New Business –

A. Review and vote on listed policies

a. GSV2 Volunteer Background Check Policy

After some discussion Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy GSV2. Motion was seconded by Barnett. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

b. GOV3 CVL Locations, Phone Numbers, Hours

After some discussion Barnett made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy GOV3. Motion was seconded by Roger. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

c. INF3 Computer/ Internet Use

After some discussion, Granville made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy INF3. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

d. INF5 Photographs / Videos

After some discussion Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy INF5. Motion was seconded by Barnett. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

e. PER3: Harassment

After some discussion Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy PER3. Motion was seconded by Barnett. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

f. PER16: Overtime

After some discussion Granville made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy PER16. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

g. PER21: Public Records

After some discussion Barnett made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy PER21. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

h. PER23: Outside Employment

After some discussion Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy PER23. Motion was seconded by Berry. Unanimous approval by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Granville, and Rogers.

VIII. County Library Trustee Report

A. Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Assist. Director Burnett gave the CCPL update. Branch Manager Brossett is working with Operation Coordinator Harp to get musical instruments installed in the CCPL Children's Garden. The funds for these instruments were awarded to CCPL through a grant from EMC. The first ringing of the Literacy Bell for this school year is the first Friday in November. The kindergarten class students who have learned to read come to ring the bell and CCPL throws a small party for them. She invited the board members to come and celebrate with the children.

B. Marion County

Marion CLB Chair Rogers Informed the board that the accessibility upgrades from the grant received for the MCPL have been finished. She listed all the new upgrades.

C. Muscogee County

Muscogee CLB Chair Brito encouraged everyone who could to please attend the Cocktails & Comedy Fundraiser.

D. Stewart County

Director Harkness had already given a SCLB update earlier in his Director's Report.

**IX. Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026, at 5:30PM.
Location: Cusseta – Chattahoochee County Library.**

X. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM

