

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Regional Board Meeting
April 23, 2024 – 5:30pm
Columbus Public Library

In attendance; Amanda Hollomon, Chair, Darcy Brito, Vice Chair, Nea Permenter, Secretary, Donovan Granville, Susan Berry, and Todd Robinson. Also attending, Alan Harkness, Director of CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries).

- I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.
- II. **Approval of January 25, 2024, minutes** – Motion to approve by Todd Robinson, second by Darcy Brito. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Berry and Robinson.
- III. Public Comment – There was none.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Director Harkness presented the treasurer’s report.
- V. Director’s Report – Director Harkness presented the director’s report.

Director Harkness presented the dashboard. The market share is at 20% and active cardholders continue to increase. Director Harkness informed the board that the MCSD (Muscookee County School District) did not allocate the three million that the Muscookee County Library Board asked for to build the new North Columbus Public Library in the new SPLOST that is up for a vote on May 7,2024. They only approved a possible 1.5 to 2 million.

The Marion County Library Board decided to be placed on the state list to renovate the existing building or construct a new Marion County Public Library. In July, Director Harkness will ask the Regional Board to vote on delegating this construction's responsibility to the Marion County Library Board.

After the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries System was the first library system in Georgia to go fines free, 11 systems in Georgia have followed with some kind of version of the fines free program. Director Harkness is proud that CVL is has been the catalyst of this movement towards fines free libraries in Georgia.

The Ledger-Enquirer will be coming into the Columbus Public Library one day a month to visit with the public and talk to them about any concerns or news stories the public may want to discuss.

The South Columbus Public Library should be completed in August. The Muscookee County Library Foundation will be donating \$10,000 for a block party to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated South Columbus Public Library. The block party should be some time after Labor Day.

Biographer Mary V. Dearborn will be at the Columbus Public Library on April 23,

2024, discussing her new book *Carson McCullers – A Life*. This event was possible through a partnership with the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians at Columbus State University and the Georgia Center for the Book.

The Columbus Children's Book Festival will be May 11, 2024. This year the authors and illustrators featured are Vashti Harrison, Alyssa Capucilli, R. Gregory Christie, and Matt de la Peña. This event will kick off the Summer Reading Program. The CVL is also partnering with Mayor Henderson's reading program and the state of Georgia. Mayor Henderson will be reading to kids and doing a photo op with them at the Columbus Public Library.

United Way asked for a letter of commitment from the CVL for the Reconnect grant stating what the CVL is willing to offer on top of what the library is already doing for the chip manufacturers they are trying to attract Columbus.

VI. Unfinished Business – There was none.

VII. New Business –

i. Approve FY25 Budget

Brito made a motion to approve the tentative FY25 Budget. Motion was seconded by Robinson. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Berry and Robinson.

ii. Approve Director Salary

Brito made a motion to approve the Director's salary as presented. Motion was seconded by Hollomon. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Berry and Robinson.

iii. Approve Signature Authority

Permenter made a motion to approve Director Harkness as the signature authority for the next fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Brito. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Berry and Robinson.

VIII. Next meeting is scheduled for July 18th, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. Location: Columbus Public Library.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.