

Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 20 - 6:00 pm
Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library

In attendance:

Chair Amanda Hollomon
Vice Chair Tanya Jones
Treasurer Christina Young
Linda Englebert

Also, staff members:

Interim Branch Manager Kayla Staubitz
Director Alan Harkness
Assist. Director for Public Service Katie Burnett
Administrative Specialist Lizette Cruz

Public

Ruth Coleman Quester
Gabryelle Rankin

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Hollomon at 6:00 PM.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes**
Chair Hollomon asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2024. Jones made the motion. Young seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by Hollomon, Englebert, Jones and Young.
- III. Public Comment
Ruth Coleman Quester addressed the Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library Board about her concerns of the recent personnel changes at CCPL.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Director Harkness presented the Treasurer's report. The ending Balance for September was \$10,725.78.
- V. Director's Report & Local Library Report
Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. Director Harkness introduced Kayla Staubitz, who will be the interim manager due to Pam Burnamy's early retirement. She will not be applying for the permanent position. Interviews for the CCPL branch manager position will be held on June 5th. CVL commits to fulfilling as many of the programs that have already been advertised and planned for the summer as they are able.

There had been some worry that executive order issued by the current administration effecting the Institute of Museum and Library Services would eliminate 5.1 million dollars' worth of federal funding to the Georgia Public Library Service. Loss of this funding would affect PINES, internet services across all Georgia libraries not covered by e-rate and eliminate library services for the blind. For right now funding from the federal government for public libraries is continuing in

most states including Georgia. For us these funds mostly pay for internet services. Since they are distributed on monthly basis, the CVL is budgeting as if that money will not be distributed in case future funding is suspended. CVL wants to assure that services to the public are not disrupted. Senate Bill 74 did not pass the house which is good news for Georgia libraries.

The Columbus Children's Book Festival held last weekend was a great success. So far numbers have shown between 4000 and 4,500 people attend the CCBF.

The CCPL's Children's Garden is almost finished. The CVL is waiting on the release of the last of the construction funds to install the shading. Programs have already been held in the garden. Young expressed concern that there was already some erosion in the garden. Director Harkness will have the Operations Coordinator, check to see if the contractor has any responsibility to fix the erosion issue.

- VI. Unfinished Business: there was none.
- VII. New Business
 - i. **Approve FY26 Budget working draft.**
After reviewing the budget Chair Hollomon asked for a motion to approve the FY26 Budget working draft with the ability to adjust as needed. Young made the motion. Englebert seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by Hollomon, Englebert, Jones and Young.
- VIII. Chair's Report: The Chair acknowledged the loss of Burgamy as the branch manager and wishes her success in her future endeavors. Treasurer Young informed the board that Young and Englebert went to Sumter EMC and gave a presentation for a grant they hope the CCPL will receive to install a musical board in the CCPL Children's Garden. There was positive feedback on the presentation.
- IX. Board Education: Director Harkness plans to hold another System Wide Board Training in January of 2026. There were many positive reviews of the training that was held last January. Director Harkness reminded the board that due to this being the third meeting in a row that board member Jason Frost has been absent from a CCPL board meeting, according to state law, he must be removed from the board. New recommendations to fill this vacancy will be needed at the next board meeting.
- X. Next meeting date: July 15, 2025, at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM