

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

June 12, 2023 – 11:00 am

Mildred L. Terry Public Library – Alpha Kappa Alpha Room

Members in Attendance:

Todd Robinson, Secretary
Susan Berry
Sebastian Cahill
Denise Eckley
Donovan Granville
SirMichael Jones
Reggie Lewis
Beth Schwartz

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director, CVL
Tracie Price, Finance/HR, CVL
Katie Burnett, CPL Branch Manager
Amber Brookins, Materials/Statistics Coordinator
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist

Acting Chair, Sec. Robinson, called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Sec. Robinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2023, meeting. Reggie Lewis moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Dennis Eckley. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis, Robinson and Schwartz.

Public Comment

Jamie Burnett asked to address the board and speak about a display at the North Columbus Public Library. Ms. Burnett was given 5 minutes per the Library Board by-laws to speak. The board listened and thanked Ms. Burnett for her comments.

Muscogee County Library Foundation

Director Harkness presented on behalf of the Foundation. This year's headliner for the Cocktails & Comedy Fundraiser is Comedian Damon Sumner. Cocktails & Comedy will take place on November 16th.

Treasurer's Report

Tracie Price covered the FY23 Period 10 financials which ended on April 30, 2023. Jones inquired about funding for training opportunities for staff. Price and Director Harkness explained how training was accounted for the budget. There were no further questions.

Director's Report

Director Harkness informed the board after careful consideration, he has decided that any email messaging on LGBTQ+ topics would be limited to adult recipients, and that book displays on this area in the branches would be limited to adult areas only.

Director Harkness invited board members to see the Clothes Story exhibit that is now on display at the Columbus Public Library throughout the month of June. The National Holocaust Museum exhibit will arrive July 5th and be on display through the rest of July. This is the only stop it is making in Georgia.

The slab for the new South Columbus Public Library construction has finally been poured. The steel beams should begin going up this week. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances construction will not be completed until April or May of 2024.

Summer Reading has been going well. Numbers are reaching back up to where it was pre-COVID. The Columbus Children's festival was a remarkable success with over four thousand people in the building for the festival.

Branch Report

Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen showed a picture presentation of the Clothes Story exhibit, the large attendance at Storytime at the Columbus Public Library, Summer reading and Golden ticket winners along with pictures of the continuing construction at South.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

Vote on Candidate (Judy Barnett) to replace Grace Nagel who resigned as a Board Member.

- a. After reviewing Judy Barnett's resume, Sec. Robinson asked for a motion to approve Judy Barnett as a new library board member. Beth Schwartz made a motion and Reggie Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

Vote for approval of updated job descriptions:

a. Financial Services Specialist

Sebastian Cahill made a motion to approve the updates to this job description. Motion was seconded by Reggie Lewis. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

b. Financial Services Associate

Denise Eckley made a motion to approve the updates to this job description. Motion was seconded by Reggie Lewis. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

c. Materials Assistant

Reggie Lewis made a motion to approve the updates to this job description. Motion was seconded by Denise Eckley. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

Vote to approve Director's Salary

SirMichael Jones made a motion to approve the Director's Salary as presented. Beth Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

Vote on updated FY24 Budget

After some discussion, Reggie Lewis made a motion to approve the updated FY24 Budget. Motion was seconded by SirMichael Jones. Motion was approved unanimously by Berry, Cahill, Eckley, Granville, Jones, Lewis. Robinson and Schwartz.

Chair's Report – Acting Chair, Sec. Robinson, did not have anything from Chair Brito to present.

Next meeting is set for August 14, 2023, at 11 AM.

Location: Mildred L. Terry Public Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

DRAFT