

Marion County Library Board Meeting Thursday,
April 13th, 2023 – 4:30 pm Cusseta-
Chattahoochee Public Library

In attendance:

Seleta Rogers, Chair
Keisa Rembert, Vice Chair
Debbie Ford, Secretary
Cindy Haulk

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director
Kim Scott, MCLP Branch Manager
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order

Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

II. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

III. Approval of the minutes from January 13, 2023

Chair Rogers asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13th, 2023, meeting. Motion was made by Ford and seconded by Rembert. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Haulk, Ford, and Rembert.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Manager Scott presented the treasurer's report. The CVL has installed the new telephone system and will be taking over the cost of the telephone service for the Marion Public Library, at a savings of \$1,560.00. There was a pipe burst in the library which is why the library is presently closed except for curb side service. Marion County is paying for the repairs, so that will not be coming out of the budget.

V. Director's Report

Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. Director Harkness welcomed the board to the newly renovated Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library. He invited the Board to take a tour of the library after the meeting so they can see what is possible to do at the Marion County Public Library in the future.

The consultants hired by the Georgia Public Library Service have come out to assess the Marion County Public Library. The report has not yet been issued. This may be another option other than the capital outlay grant for renovations that the Board can consider once the report is issued and if the GPLS decides to make an offer to the Marion County Public Library for upgrades.

Director Harkness gave an update on the South Columbus construction and noted that they have received a Bradley Turner grant to help fund the shortfall. The CVL has taken over the telephone costs for the Marion County Library.

In the fall a new cataloging system will be implemented. It will require new training for staff and changes to how books are cataloged and checked out but will bring significant savings to the budget. Director Harkness introduced the new logo and website for the Board. The company who designed the new logo and website specializes in libraries. The new website will save the libraries \$15,000.00 a year.

Director Harkness reminded the board about the upcoming Columbus Children's Book Festival on April 29th and invited them to please drop by. The festival will mark the beginning of Summer Reading sponsored by Aflac and featuring the return of Golden Ticket Tuesday. The Clothes Story will return for Juneteenth at the Columbus Public Library with new additions to the exhibit. The Holocaust exhibit from the American Holocaust Museum and the Georgia Holocaust Museum will be on display in July.

VI. Local Library Report

Manager Scott gave her local library report. Summer Reading kicks off April 29th. Manager Scott has reached out to local organizations to deliver the Summer Reading program guides and has offered to do some programming with them. This year, some adjustments will be made to staff's schedules to provide more Saturday programs for the summer.

Manager Scott addressed the issue of the pipe burst. She explained the damage done to the main library areas and the adjustments the county has made to the repairs to avoid a similar scenario in the future. The water invaded main parts of the library, under the stacks, behind the service desk, and the adult reading area. The carpet was saturated with water. Most of the carpet is now dry, however there are some parts of the carpet that are inaccessible, such as under the stacks. The musty smell has been treated with baking soda and it has dissipated greatly. There is a concern of future mold growing especially in the other areas where they were not able to vacuum up all the water.

The county has insurance on the building. They have brought in their plumber and the pipe will be run through the utilities, bathroom, and kitchen areas, instead of the main library rooms, and a new pipe which can expand up to twice its size will replace the old pipe, in an effort to avoid another pipe burst in the future. The Library is presently only open for curbside service until the repairs are completed.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

i. Approve FY24 Budget

After some discussion Debbie Ford made a motion to approve the FY24 budget as presented. Cindy Haulk seconded the motion. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Haulk, Ford, and Rembert.

ii. Approve Manager Kim Scott spending up to \$1,000.00 for carpet cleaning.

Manager Kim explained that because of the flooding caused by the pipe burst, to avoid mold growing in the building, they have acquired 2 estimates for a company to come in and take care of that. One is for over \$5,000 dollars and the second amount is for \$1,280.00. (They had not received the estimate as of the time the agenda was sent out.)

Chair Rogers asked for a motion to approve up to \$1,300.00 for Manager Scott to contract the Southern Services Carpet Cleaning Company to come in and clean the carpet to ward off mold. Debbie Ford made a motion to approve. Keisa Rembert seconded the motion. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Haulk, Ford, and Rembert.

IX. Chair Report

Chair Rogers thanked the libraries for the monthly report they include in the meeting packet and in the newspaper about all the wonderful things the libraries are doing.

X. Board Education

There were no questions or pints to bring.

XI. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on July 13, 2023.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM