

**Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board**

**April 15, 2025 – 11:00 am**

**Columbus Public Library, Synovus Rooms A & B**

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair  
Susan Berry  
Asante Hilts  
Reggie Lewis  
Sharon Jamison  
Shannon Reynolds

SirMichael Jones  
Denise Eckley  
Dahmon King  
Mary Angela Stone McMurphy  
Jennifer St, John  
Donovan Granville

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)  
Katie Burnett, Assist. Director of Public Services, CVL  
Tracie Price, Assist. Director of Business Services, CVL  
Gabbi Hart, Operations Coordinator, CVL  
Amber Brookins, Materials & Statistics Coordinator, CVL  
Laura Ann Mann, Executive Director, MCLF  
Van Monteclaros, Information Technology Coordinator, CVL  
Jeannine Scott, Branch Manager of NCPL, CVL  
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

Jamie Burkett - Patron

- I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
- II. **Approval of the February 10, 2025, minutes.**  
Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting. Eckley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jones. The motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy, Reynolds, and St. John.
- III. Public Comment – Jamie Burkett spoke to the board, presenting several issues she had with certain policies of the library, for five minutes.
- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation  
Laura Ann Mann gave the MCLF update. The MCLF Board has approved the FY26 Budget. The MCLF projects to be able to support the CVL in FY26 with between 1.1 to 1.3 million dollars. The MCLF will be hosting a Midweek Mahjong Fundraiser night on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mann invited board members to the event. Mann also noted that in the agenda the MCLF has asked to close the Columbus Public Library early on November 13, 2025, to set up the library for the Cocktails & Comedy Annual Fundraiser.
- V. Treasurer's Report  
Assist. Director Price covered the FY25 Period 8 financials which ended February 28, 2025. There were no questions.

## VI. Branch Report

Assist. Director Burnett Showed pictures from several events across different branches of the CVL, to include Big Read displays, Bubble Party, Harry Potter Night, Teddy Bear Tea Party, and display preparations for the Columbus Children's Book Festival. She also provided each board member with a copy of the new CVL Spring Guide.

## VII. New Business

### **i. Approve updated job description.**

#### **a. Volunteer Coordinator**

St. John made a motion to approve the updated job description for Volunteer Coordinator. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy. Reynolds, and St. John.

### **ii. Review listed Policies**

#### **a. CUS1 Customer Service**

#### **b. CUS4 Staff Room Use**

#### **c. PER5 Workplace Safety**

#### **d. PER7 Workplace Violence**

#### **e. PER11 Solicitation**

#### **f. PER12 Visitors in the workplace**

#### **g. PER13 Recruitment of Candidates for Position**

#### **h. PER18 Use of Volunteers**

After some discussion it was agreed to vote on all of the updated policies as a whole.

Eckley made a motion to approve the updated policies as presented. Berry seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy. Reynolds, and St. John.

### **iii. Approve FY26 Budget**

King made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget. McMurphy seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy. Reynolds, and St. John.

### **iv. Approve Capital Plan for FY25 – FY30**

Hilts made a motion to approve the Capital Plan for FY25 – FY30. Jones seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy. Reynolds, and St. John.

### **v. Approve Columbus Public Library early Closure at 1 Pm on November 13, 2025, to prepare for Cocktails & Comedy Fundraising Event.**

Eckley made a motion to approve the early closure of the CPL on November 13, 2025.

McMurphy seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy. Reynolds, and St. John.

## VIII. Director's Report

Senate Bill 74 did not pass the house which is good news for Georgia libraries. The Parks Memorial Project was not approved by the state in this budget year. The CVL will apply again next year. House Bill 516 allowing library board members to attend the meetings by zoom has passed and is now awaiting the governor's signature. An executive order issued by the Trump administration likely will eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services affecting 5.1 million worth of federal funding to the Georgia Public Library Service. This will affect PINES, internet services across all Georgia libraries not covered by e-rate and eliminate library services for the blind.

Director Harkness invited all board members to come to the Columbus Children's Book Festival on May 17, 2005. Director Harkness then asked IT Coordinator Van Montecarlos to speak about a grant to update cyber security awarded to the CVL. The CVL was the only library system in the state of Georgia to be approved for this grant.

IX. Unfinished Business – there was none.

X. Chair's Report

Chair Brito asked each board member to take some time to write or reach out to Georgia Congressman Brain Jack regarding the federal cuts to Institute of Museum and Library Services.

XI. Next meeting is set for May 12, 2025, at 11 AM.

Location: Columbus Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 PM.