

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board
February 9, 2026 – 11:00 am
Columbus Public Library, Synovus Rooms A & B

Members in Attendance:

Jennifer St. John, Chair
Judy Barnett
Susan Berry
David Fox
Sharon Childs Jamison

Sarah Horton
Mary Angela Stone McMurphy
Shannon Reynolds
Sarah Rumph
L. Michelle Wilson

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)
Katie Burnett, Assist. Director of Public Services, CVL
Tracie Price, Assist. Director for Business Services, CVL
Amber Brookins, Materials & Statistics Coordinator, CVL
Elyse French, Branch Manager of CPL, CVL
Jeannine Scott, Branch Manager of NCPL, CVL
Laura Ann Mann, Exec. Director, Muscogee County Library Foundation
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

- I. Call to Order – Chair St. John called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

- II. Approval of the December 8, 2025**
Chair St. John asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2025, meeting. Berry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by McMurphy. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

- III. Public Comment – There was none.

- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation - Executive Director Mann gave the MCLF Report. The MCLF hosted its annual Donor's Gala on January 22, 2026. The featured author Adrian Miller at the Gala. was the speaker the next day for a free library event to kick off the start of the Food & Soul of America An American 250th Celebration series that MCLF is proud to sponsor. Around 90 people attended. Library Giving Day is April 1st. MCLF will be having a funding campaign for this day encouraging donors to support the libraries.

- V. Treasurer's Report – Asst. Director Price presented the treasurer's report. She went over the FY26 Period 6 Financial Report which ended on December 31, 202. Revenue and expenses are on track for the middle of the fiscal year.

- VI. Director's Report - Director Harkness presented the Director's report. Director Harkness thanked everyone who attended the Systemwide Library Board Training on January 31, 2026. He then went over the CVL Dashboard. Active cardholders have gone down slightly. Visitors are also slightly down, but e-material circulation and program attendance are up. Computer use continues

to go up.

He invited every board member to attend the events scheduled for the library system wide program *Food & the Soul of America*, that will be running from January until April 2026. He also invited them to attend the Columbus Children's Book Festival in May.

Director Harkness has some good news. The Institute of Museum and Library Services has received full funding from Congress for this fiscal year and raised the funding slightly. That means five million in funds for the GLS of Georgia which provides GALILEO, Library for the Blind, and other important services for the libraries in GA.

Director Harkness wanted to make the library board aware of Georgia Senate Bill 74. It has come out of committee and could be coming to vote. Barnett encouraged board members to call their GA congress representatives and senators.

- VII. Branch Report – Assist. Director Burnett gave the Branch Report. This month's Resource of the Month in honor of Black History month is Bloom's Literature. This is a database resource for students researching literature. The CVL is highlighting a Black Writer's Collection in Bloom for Black History Month.

She then highlighted several local branch programs such as Galivant with GLS Library for Blind at CPL, Outreach at Frank Chester Recreation Center for Seniors with SCPL, and the crochet club at MTL made scarves and hats during the recent cold snap for patrons in need to take and use. CPL hosted a book launch event with a library assistant from NCPL who just published her first book, *Heart's Gambit*. Her author name is J.D. Myall.

Assist. Director Burnett then introduced Branch Manager Jeannine Scott, of the North Columbus Public Library, to present some programs happening at NCPL in the next few months. NCPL Book Club set a goal for the Winter Reading challenge this year of 250,000 minutes. They enjoyed the friendly competition amongst the club, and they accomplished 95% of their goals. NCPL has a monthly edible engineering course for kids. They have been highlighting local landmarks this season, and Manager Scott showed pictures of the Rice Krispy treat cows that the children made representing Columbus's Katy the Cow landmark. Throughout February and March, NCPL will be hosting an exhibit from the FOX Theatre in Atlanta called *Fox in a Box*. To accompany this exhibit NCPL will be having a series of children's programming featuring local community arts such as the Columbus Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo, the Springer Opera House teach improv, and a program where the children will use household objects to provide the sound effects to an onscreen movie.

- IX. New Business

A. Review and vote on listed policies

i. CIR1: Library Cards & eCards

After some discussion, Horton made a motion to approve the policy with indicated edits. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

ii. GOV7: Collection Development Policy

After some discussion, Barnett made a motion to approve the policy with indicated edits. Jamison seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

iii. CUS3: Safe Child Policy

After some discussion and correction in language agreed upon, Barnett made a motion to approve the policy with indicated edits. Fox seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

iv. INF2: Interlibrary Loan Policy

After some discussion, Fox made a motion to approve the policy with indicated edits. Rumph seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

v. INF7: Institutional Cards Policy

After some discussion, Wilson made a motion to approve the policy with indicated edits. Jamison seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Barnett, Berry, Fox, Jamison, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

B. Vote on candidates for vacancy on board.

After some discussion it was decided to table this item until the next meeting. Chair St. John asks everyone on the board to have the resumes of candidates to consider for the vacancy on the board to forwarded to her and Director Harkness by the end of February.

C. Vote on a new vice chair.

After some discussion it was decided to table this item until the next meeting.

D. Appoint two representatives for the Regional Board.

After some discussion it was decided to table this item until the next meeting.

E. Review AX-3 Report 2025

Director Harkness explained the report and asked the board to review it at their leisure. There were no findings by the auditor.

X. Chair's Report

Chair St. John encouraged everyone to please try and attend some of the upcoming programs at the libraries and to take pictures to share on social media.

XI. Next meeting is set for March 9, 2026, at 11 AM.

Location: Columbus Public Library.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14