

**Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board**  
**March 16, 2026 – 11:00 am**  
**Columbus Public Library, Synovus Rooms A & B**

Members in Attendance:

Jennifer St. John, Chair  
Susan Berry  
David Fox  
Sarah S. Horton  
Asante Hilts  
SirMichael Jones

Dahmon King  
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  
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 11:02 AM.
- II. Approval of the February 9, 2026**  
Chair St. John asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2026, meeting. Horton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Hilts. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Berry, Fox, Hilts, Horton, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson. (King and Jones arrived shortly after.)
- III. Public Comment – There was none.
- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation - Executive Director Mann gave the MCLF Report. The MCLF started their annual Library Giving Day Campaign last week, through mail, email, and social media. It is going well. So far, the MCLF has raised \$2,000 just from new donors who have never given before.
- V. Treasurer's Report – An updated Treasurer's Report was not yet available. The board will have an updated one available at the next board meeting.
- VI. Director's Report - Director Harkness presented the Director's report. The *Food & the Soul of America* event has been very well received. Last Thursday's event with James Beard Award winning author, Michael W. Twitty, had over 150 in attendance. Director Harkness invited the board to visit the exhibits that are located on the second floor on cookbooks and Pimento Cheese.

He reminded the board of the upcoming Columbus Children's Book Festival on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Board members are invited to attend the Author's Dinner the evening of May 8<sup>th</sup> and meet the authors

participating in the Columbus Children’s Book Festival. They should be receiving an email invitation from Community Engagement to RSVP for the dinner. That same week on May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>, the CVL is hosting the GA Library Director’s Meetings.

The MCLF’s Friends & Foundation Spring Book Sale is this weekend, March 20<sup>th</sup>- March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Director Harkness wanted to inform the board that Georgia Senate Bill 74 has passed the crossover and is awaiting a final vote. The wording has changed enough to lay the responsibility more on the directors and the library boards than on library staff.

CVL should have the FY27 Budget ready for board review and approval in April. The new Strategic Plan is on track to be ready by June. The afterhours locker that has not been utilized at the Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Library has been moved to the North Columbus Public Library. It should be ready for use by next week.

Director Harkness will be promoting Summer Reading at the next MCSD board meeting, including the Read Big and Read More Awards.

VII. Branch Report – Assist. Director Burnett gave the Branch Report. This month’s Resource of the Month is Mailbox Plus. She presented pictures and stories about several events and programs running across all the CVL branches including Guys Read, events with the Book Mobile, The Teddy Bear Clinic, school field trips at SCPL, MCSD Robotics event at MTL and Fox in a Box theatre program at NCPL.

IX. New Business

**A. Review and approve job descriptions updates**

**i. HR & Staff Development Associate**

After some discussion, Wilson made a motion to approve the updated job description for HR & Staff Development Associate. Hilts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Berry, Fox, Jones, Hilts, Horton, King, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

**ii. Bookmobile Trainee and Book Mobile Specialist**

After some discussion, Chair St. John called for these two items to be voted on together as they are connected. Jones made a motion to approve the updated job descriptions for Bookmobile Trainee and Book Mobile Specialist. Horton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Berry, Fox, Jones, Hilts, Horton, King, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

**B. Votes on Candidates for vacancy on the board**

After some discussion Berry made a motion to appoint Marion Scott to the vacancy on the Muscogee County Library Board. Hilts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by Chair St. John, Berry, Fox, Jones, Hilts, Horton, King, McMurphy, Reynolds, Rumph, and Wilson.

**C. Vote on a new Vice Chair**

After some discussion, item was tabled for the next board meeting.

**D. Appointment of two representatives for the CVL Regional Board**

After some discussion, Chair St. John appointed L. Michelle Wilson and Sharon Childs Jamison to represent the Muscogee County Library Board on CVL regional Board.

X. Chair's Report

Chair St. John wanted to congratulate the staff on the excellent work with the *Food & the Soul of America* event. She encouraged everyone to attend the Pimento Cheese event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

XI. Next meeting is set for April 13, 2026, at 11 AM.

Location: Columbus Public Library.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM

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