

**Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board**

**October 14, 2024 – 11:00 am**

**Columbus Public Library – Synovus A & B**

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair

Denise Eckley, Treasurer

Judy Barnett

Beth Schwartz

Reggie Lewis

Asante Hilts

Todd Robinson

Susan Berry

Dahmon King

Jennifer St. John

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)

Tracie Price, Finance/HR, CVL

Gabbi Harp, Operation Coordinator, CVL

Katie Burnett, CPL Branch Manager, CVL

Jeanine Scott, NCPL Branch Manager, CVL

Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator, CVL

Amber Brookins, Materials/Statistics Coordinator, CVL

Laura Ann Mann, Executive Director, MCLF

Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

Jamie Burkett – Patron

- I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.
- II. **Approval of the July 8, 2024, minutes.**  
Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2024, meeting. Eckley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Lewis. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.
- III. Public Comment – Jamie Burkett spoke to the board for five minutes, presenting several issues she had with the policies of the library.
- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation  
Laura Ann Mann gave the MCLF update. The MCLF will be hosting a free meet the author event titled Novel Notions this Thursday at 6pm. The author is Lynda Cohen Loigman author of *The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern*. November 14 is the annual Cocktails & Comedy Fundraising event. This year's comedian is Andrew Stanley. Tickets will be \$100. In November, the MCLF will be having its annual donor appeal mail campaign. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the MCLF will be having its annual Gala for donors, with author Fiona Davis as the featured guest. Fiona Davis will also hold a free meet the author event earlier in the day for the public.
- V. Treasurer's Report  
Tracie Price covered the FY24 Period 12 financials which ended on June 30, 2024. She then went over the latest financial report for FY25, period 2, which ended August 31, 2024.
- VI. Director's Report & Branch Report  
Director Harkness let the board know that Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen resigned in September. He will soon have a new job description for that position to present to the board at the next meeting.

Director Harkness gave an update on the newly renovated South Columbus Public Library. As of now the renovation has totaled 9.4 million dollars. During the first week of the soft opening in September, South had 2,000 visitors and over 100 new card sign-ups. The infant crawl space has been extremely popular with new parents. Already the number of new computers is at capacity after school lets out, so Director Harkness has ordered 20 more new laptops, to try and meet the need. To deter unwanted issues during the nighttime hours, the Wi-Fi will only be accessible in the parking lot from 6am until 11pm, for patrons who need to access Wi-Fi during hours that the library is closed.

This Saturday, October 19, will be the Grand Reopening Celebration for South. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, free food, music, storytellers, and many activities. Director Harkness invites all board members to come and participate. Director Harkness introduced everyone to a collaboration with GPLS called the Palace Project. It is a large database available to CVL patrons with e-books and other great resources. He gave the recent numbers of attendance for several events across the branches and presented several promotions of staff.

VII. Unfinished Business – there was none.

VIII. New Business

**i. Approve closing of the Columbus Public Library on November 14, 2024, at 1PM for the Cocktails & Comedy Event.**

Schwartz made a motion to approve closing the library at 1pm on November 14, 2024. Hilts seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**ii. Approve closing of the Columbus Public Library on January 23, 2025, at 5pm for the Foundation Gala.**

St. John made a motion to approve closing the library on January 23, 2025. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson

**iii. Review listed policies and vote on updates**

**a. PER22: Employment References**

Hilts made a motion to approve updated policy PER22. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson

**b. PER6: Emergencies and Disasters**

Eckley made a motion to approve updated policy PER6. Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**c. PER25: Educational Expenses Reimbursement**

Barnett made a motion to approve updated policy PER25. St. John seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**d. PER4: Criminal Background Checks**

Eckley made a motion to approve updated policy PER4. King seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**e. PER24: Continuing Education**

Schwartz made a motion to approve updated policy PER24. Hilts seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**f. PER9: Confidentiality of Patron Records**

Hilts made a motion to approve updated policy PER9. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**g. PER1: At-will Employment**

Barnett made a motion to approve updated policy PER1. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, King, Lewis, Schwartz, St. John, and Robinson.

**IX. Chair's Report**

Chair Brito thanked everyone on their board for supporting the CVL. She encouraged all board members to attend the Grand Reopening Celebration for the South Columbus Public Library.

**X. Next meeting is set for December 9, 2024, at 11 AM. Location: South Columbus Public Library. Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 PM.**



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