

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

December 9, 2024 – 11:00 am

South Columbus Public Library, Pete Robinson Meeting Room

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair

Donovan Granville, Vice Chair

Denise Eckley, Treasurer

Judy Barnett

Beth Schwartz

SirMichael Jones

Asante Hilts

Todd Robinson

Mary Angela Stone McMurphy

Reggie Lewis

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)

Gabbi Harp, Operation Coordinator, CVL

Katie Burnett, CPL Branch Manager, CVL

Pepper Grimmatt, SCPL Branch Manager, CVL

Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator, CVL

Laura Ann Mann, Executive Director, MCLF

Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

- I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

- II. **Approval of the October 14, 2024, minutes.**
Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024, meeting. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Robinson. The motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy and Robinson. (Jones arrived after this motion passed).

- III. New Business
Due to several board members needing to leave the meeting early due to another obligation, Chair Brito moved the following items on the agenda up.
 - i. **Approve updated job descriptions.**
 - a. **Assistant Director of Public Services**
Hilts made a motion to approve the new job description for Assist. Director of Public Services. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy and Robinson.
 - b. **Assistant Director for Business Services & Community Engagement Coordinator**
Hilts made a motion to vote on b. and c. together. Robinson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy and Robinson.
Hilts made a motion to approve the new job description for Assist. Director for Business
Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Stone McMurphy and Robinson.
 - d. **Branch Manager II**
Robinson made a motion to approve the updated job description for Branch Manager II. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy, and Robinson.
 - e. **Changes in "reports to" for several positions**
Eckley made a motion to approve the changes for the job positions as listed and presented.

Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy, and Robinson.

ii. Approve revised pay band

Jones made a motion to approve the revised pay band. Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis Schwartz, Stone McMurphy, and Robinson.

iii. Election of a new Chair

Eckley made a motion to accept the nomination of Darcy Brito as Board Chair for 2025. Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy, and Robinson.

iv. Review resumes and vote on candidates to fill upcoming vacant positions on the Board.

After reviewing all the resumes, Schwartz made a motion to accept the appointments of Shannon Reynolds, Sharon Childs Jamison, and David E. Fox to the Muscogee County Library Board, with terms to start in February of 2025 after the director presents them to the MCSD Board for approval at the January 2025 meeting. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, Stone McMurphy and Robinson.

IV. Public Comment – There was none

V. Muscogee County Library Foundation

Laura Ann Mann gave the MCLF update. November 14 was the annual Cocktails & Comedy Fundraising event. This year this event raised \$55,000. On January 23rd, 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. The last study room in the Mildred L. Terry Public Library has been named and funds donated. The crawl space at the South Columbus Public has also received funds donated for naming that space.

On January 23rd, 2025, the MCLF will be having its annual Gala for donors, with New York Times Best Selling Author Fiona Davis as the featured guest. She will have her new book that comes out January 7th, *The Stolen Queen*, available for sale. Fiona Davis will also hold a free meet the author event earlier in the day for the public.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Director Harkness covered the FY24 Period 4 financials which ended on October 31, 2024. There were no questions.

VII. Director's Report & Branch Report

Director Harkness wanted to remind all board members of the region-wide Library Board Training on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 9 AM to noon at the South Columbus Public Library. Breakfast will be provided. He asked that everyone RVSP with Lizette by December 13th.

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South Columbus Public Library has had great attendance from the public since opening. Manager Pepper Grimmett has started an outreach program with the local schools where she has a staff member go to the classroom twice to do an activity with the children and then for the third activity the class takes a trip to the library. They send card applications home with the children. SCPL has seen a good return with children coming back to the library with their families to get their cards and take out books. Director Harkness congratulated Manager Grimmett on the great work she has done with SCPL since she took that position last year.

Guys Read starts in 2025. There are 12 schools that have already signed up to participate in the program. There are more men needed to volunteer in the program. Santa at the Library has started and

he will visit all the libraries in the system in December. Due to the rise prices for books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the Chattahoochee Valley Library will need to suspend registrations in January until they can raise more funds. This means that the CVL will need to suspend the option for parents to sign up their children when they get their child a library card. The CVIL & CVL has applied for a Georgia Reads Grant. If we are awarded this grant, we might not need to suspend registrations for another year.

The MCSD will be paying for the new boiler at the Columbus Public Library. Parks Memorial Public Library is on the state grant program for a matching grant to renovate the Park Memorial Public Library hopefully in starting 2026. Donovan asked about the 24-hour libraries that are down. Manager Katie Burkett from CPL stated that the maintenance person is scheduled to come for the yearly contracted maintenance of the machines on Wednesday of this week. He has ordered parts for both libraries, and they expect the 24 hours libraries to be back online this week.,

VIII. Unfinished Business – there was none.

IX. Chair's Report

Chair Brito asked Robinson and Schwartz to speak as they are rolling off the board for 2025. They talked about how much they enjoyed working on this board the last four years.

X. Next meeting is set for January 13, 2025, at 11 AM. Location: Columbus Public Library. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

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