

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

June 9, 2025 – 11:00 am

Columbus Public Library, Synovus Rooms A & B

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair

Susan Berry

Asante Hilts

Reggie Lewis

Jennifer St. John

Donovan Granville

Judy Barnett

SirMichael Jones

Denise Eckley

Dahmon King

Sharon Childs Jamison

David Fox

Mary Angela Stone McMurphy

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

Catie Tierney, Branch Manager of MLTPL, CVL

Keshon Anderson, Finance & Human Resources Specialist, CVL

Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

- I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:01 am.
- II. **Approval of April 14, 2025, minutes.**
Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting. Berry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jamison. The motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, and St. John. (McMurphy arrived after this motion.)
- III. Public Comment – There was none.
- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation
Laura Ann Mann is on vacation. She will present her report at the next Muscogee County Library Board meeting.
- V. Treasurer's Report
Assist. Director Price covered the FY25 Period 10 financials which ended April 30, 2025. Expenses are trending below projected. There were no questions.
- VI. Director's Report
On June 6, a federal judge declined to block the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services while court cases proceed. This will mean that it is much more likely that the GLS will lose the five million dollars they receive from the federal government which pays for the internet e-rate, library services for the blind and possibly GALILEO. The CVL had budgeted in FY26 for this loss of federal funding.

CVL is working with a vendor to formulate a new strategic plan for the next 3 to five years. Once the plan is finalized, Director Harkness will bring it before the board. He will be inviting

board members to participate in the planning process once those meetings begin if they wish.

Director Harkness and Laura Ann Mann will be attending in 2025 Inter-City Leadership Conference in Chattanooga, TN held by the Columbus Chamber of Congress from September 30th to October 3rd, 2025. The MCLF will be paying these expenses.

This morning, Chance Corbett, the Emergency Management Director for the City of Columbus, gave the CVL staff situational preparedness training. Staff were able to engage with Mr. Corbett and ask questions about different emergency situations. The CVL has added a Slack channel, specific for emergency situations and mobile panic buttons. CVL is also looking into bringing in an off-duty officer or two, mostly for CPL and SCPL but also possibly as roaming positions visiting all the different Columbus locations. Once a plan is finalized for how this would work best, the Director will present it before the Board.

Director Harkness invited all the board members to sign up for Summer Reading. Director Harkness congratulated Keshon Anderson's promotion to Finance & Human Resources Specialist, Human Resources.

VII. Branch Report

A new branch manager for the Columbus Public Library branch and for Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library branch were hired. They will start in the next few weeks.

Assist. Director Burnett showed pictures from the Columbus Children's Book Festival. Attendance numbered around 4,000. There were over 100 volunteers participating alongside staff to make the day a great success. 400 families completed the Scavenger Hunt. All the authors' meet and greet lines were equally full throughout the event.

This year for Summer reading the goal is to have a collectively read 2 million 25 minutes as a community. She presented the QR code for board members to sign up. This year the CVL has brought back entertainers for Summer Reading. Shanna Banana and Didgeridoo Down Under will be performing at all the branches in the CVL system throughout the months of June and July. Field trips are scheduled for the performance as well.

NCPL held an art event in collaboration with the Columbus Art Museum on Alma Thomas. The Lena Program just had another graduation of eight families. There were a sizable number of fathers participating in this round of classes.

VIII. New Business

i. Review and vote on listed policies

a. INF1 Priorities for Reference Service

Jones pointed out that the change of reference services to information services should be carried out throughout the document. Jones then made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented with the suggested corrections made. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John.

b. INF2 Interlibrary Loan Policy

Hilts made a motion to approve renewal of the policy above with no changes as presented. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John.

c. INF5 Photographs/ Videos

Jones made a motion to approve renewal of the policy above with no changes as presented.

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

d. MNG8 Exhibits and Displays

Fox made a motion to approve renewal of the policy above with the changes as presented. Jamison seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John.

e. PER7 Workplace Violence

Hilts made a motion to approve renewal of the policy above with no changes as presented. McMurphy seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John.

f. PER19 Workers Compensation Benefits

Eckley made a motion to approve renewal of the policy above with no changes as presented. St. John seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John.

ii. Approve Final FY26 Budget

Eckley made a motion to approve the final draft of the FY26 Budget. St. John seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Granville, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, King, McMurphy and St. John. (Barnett arrived just as this last motion passed.)

IX. Chair's Report

Chair Brito thanked everyone for making the time to come to the meeting.

X. Next meeting is set for July 14, 2025, at 11 AM.

Location: Columbus Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 PM