

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Board Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2015
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Fox	Helene Watson
Owen Ditchfield	Sherry Anthony
Laura Larmore	James Dudley

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Martha Burgamy

OTHERS ATTENDING

Alan Harkness, CVL Director
Lyn Anderson, CVL Chief Financial Officer
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Charles Gibson, Mayor of Lumpkin

As Acting Chair, David Fox called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the October 17, 2015 meeting. Owen Ditchfield moved the minutes be approved as distributed. Sherry Anthony seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were several individuals attending the meeting from the City of Lumpkin. Chair Fox instructed the group that due to time constraints a limited number of individuals would be allowed time. Dorothy Kennedy, Lumpkin resident, stated that the Mayor, another individual that had been working on getting the City of Lumpkin a library (no name given) would be attending and she (Ms. Kennedy) wanted to be on the agenda. Ms. Kennedy was informed that no notice had been given the Board asking to be put on the agenda.

The Chair recognized Mayor Charles Gibson of the City of Lumpkin. The Mayor distributed a packet from his office to the Board. The packet is a part of these minutes. He then proceeded to read the letter to the members. The Mayor asked that the following information be provided to him.

1. Please share the exceptions that allow libraries to operate under the stated minimum of 32 hours per week.
2. Please provide a preliminary budget for operating a branch library or service outlet library in Lumpkin for 20 hours per week and for 25 hours per week.
3. Number of CVL library cards issued to residents in the 31815 zip code.
4. Number of CVL library cards issued to residents in each of the 31825, 31821 and 31814 zip codes.
5. The operating budget of the Parks Memorial Public Library in Richland.
6. Provide a breakdown of the funding (sources and amounts) for Parks Memorial Library.
7. Provide electronic copies of the minutes of the Stewart County Library Board in 2014 and 2013 and the CVL Board in 2014.

James Dudley asked the Mayor that in the handout it listed the SPLOST in various funding amounts and is what the City is receiving per year. The Mayor stated that it was a 6-year SPLOST and \$150,000 is dedicated to the library and will be received over the 6-year period. The Chair asked if this started this year. The Mayor stated that it started last year (2014).

The Chair recognized Dorothy Kennedy, a past Stewart County Library Board member and CVL Board member. She stated that she had attended as many meetings as she possibly could to make sure a new library happened. She said in the past the library board has been very supportive but that now she has a few questions.

1. Why would you, after knowing the Board supports it, would you send a letter saying that you will not support the library even if they built a building, that you will not provide services and did this right before the council voted? That letter affected how the Council voted. That letter went against what the Board discussed. We had a librarian before; we had a library services before and the Mayor came up with more money to pay the librarians, more money to pay toward the difference between what the Stewart County and Muscogee County were putting in and they said they were going to do this so why would you send a letter like that.
2. Why did you put into the Charter for Stewart County that Lumpkin is to be excluded and that you would be in charge of funding of anything that came from that library? Any donations that were made for Stewart County. Why would you not want that library to happen? You can say that there is crime but the only crime that ever happened at that library was by the librarian who did not want someone to enter the library. I've been looking at the crime in Lumpkin and the crime in Muscogee County and we didn't have a single death and only 10 violent crimes all year. Those are 2013 figures. I'm pretty sure there were no deaths last year. She stated that the highest crime rate in Muscogee County was at the South Lumpkin Branch (South Columbus Public Library) so why isn't the Board against that.
3. Is it the financial end? She stated the City of Lumpkin has shown support for that. She said she wanted to know what problem the Board has with Lumpkin having a library.

Amy Cadenhead, Lumpkin resident, was recognized by the Chair. Ms. Cadenhead said that her husband was born and raised in Stewart County and they had lived away for some time but had recently moved back and are current living in Lumpkin. She said they are a military family and

several other military families have recently moved to Lumpkin. She said her family would like to be able to walk across the street to the library. She said not having lived in Lumpkin for quite some time they did not know all of the issues the library faced before closing but that she and her children do want the library back in Lumpkin. She said she has no fear of crime and that she has walked the town square as late as 9:30 p.m. and never felt any fear. She said having a library would mean a lot not only to her family but to other families as well.

Owen Ditchfield asked if the site plan that was distributed was the old drug store. The Mayor stated that it was not and that it was the new site. Mr. Ditchfield asked how many square feet it would be. The Mayor said it was approximately 1,700 square feet.

Mr. Ditchfield asked Mr. Harkness if the only issue was the operating hours since the Mayor is asking for an exception to the 32 hours per week. Mr. Harkness stated that the operating hours is a State of Georgia requirement, not Chattahoochee Valley Libraries. He said to his knowledge no one is requesting exceptions to state requirements. He said the library would have to have paid staff because State of Georgia library records are confidential so you cannot have volunteers accessing the database. The size of 1,000 square feet is the minimum but with new construction, but the state construction consultant will tell you he is not going to touch anything under 4,000 to 5,000 square feet. Anyone is welcome to open a library and operate it on their own. He said the question becomes if you want state construction funds to help, there are requirements that must be met.

The Chair stated there does not need to be debate at this time. He said the public is allowed to present material to the Board to be included in the next packet for the next Board meeting and discussed. The Chair stated that due to the new makeup of the regional board, he felt that any decision on the Lumpkin Library should be tabled until the April 16, 2015 meeting.

The Chair thanked the individuals from Lumpkin for attending the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Anderson reviewed the financial reports that were distributed to the Board in their meeting packets. He stated that 50.2% of the budget has been reached. He told the Board that the financial statement he normally distributes that indicates status of the individual libraries was not available because he has not received all of the data needed to compile the information. The Chair stated the report would be accepted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Harkness added the following to his report.

1. Brainfuse—Job Now – Encouraged members to review the Job Now component that was added to Brainfuse. This is an online resource for those people looking for work.
2. Kirbo Foundation – A \$25,000 donation was made by the Kirbo Foundation to the Parks Memorial Public Library.
3. Civic Technologies – A local family foundation grant has been applied for to help the library administration learn how to better analyze library data and make better business

decisions. A determination should be made in July. Owen Ditchfield asked what the cost was for Civic Technologies. Mr. Harkness stated it would be approximately \$26,000 that would be covered by the grant and then \$13,000 annual maintenance which would be doable for the library. He said outside sources would be looked at to assist with this annual funding.

4. The Chair asked about the books that were donated to the Lumpkin Public Library. Mr. Harkness reported that the City of Lumpkin had come and retrieved the books so they are no longer listed in the CVL collection and he was not sure of where the books were being stored but they were advised to store them in a climate controlled facility. Owen Ditchfield asked how many books there were. Mr. Harkness stated there were approximately 1,100 books. Laura Larmore asked what the ages of the books were. Mr. Harkness stated there were a variety of ages.

Owen Ditchfield recommended the Board, for their next meeting, meet at the Parks Memorial Public Library in Richland since that is the only county where the regional board has not met. Mr. Dudley asked if it would be appropriate to ask the mayor to provide the additional information he offered during public comment. The Chair stated he was sure the Mayor would provide the information.

5. FY2015 Maintenance, Renovation & Repairs Funds were available for the roof replacement at the Marion County Public Library. Because the estimate was much higher than the actual replacement cost, there was \$9,200 in residual funds left over. Those funds were split among the remaining counties for their specific HVAC projects.
6. CLUE – It has been very successful in Muscogee County but not quite as successful as the administration had hoped in the other counties. They are currently working with Marion County to work out details due to concerns over use of the data provided by Marion County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Recommendation

2015 Slate of Officers: Chair -- Helene Watson
Vice Chair – Laura Larmore
Secretary – Owen Ditchfield

Appointed by acclamation.

Lumpkin Library – The Chair requested a motion to table the vote on the Lumpkin Library until after the next Board meeting in April. Owen Ditchfield so moved. Helene Watson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Operating Policy Revision – GOV3—CVL Locations, Phone Numbers & Hours

The Chair stated the changes to the document referred to Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library only due to their change in operating hours. Laura Larmore moved the

policy revision be approved as presented. Helene Watson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair said this was a good Board and realizes that over the next quarter or so there will be challenges. He said hard decisions will have to be made. He emphasized it was an important task. There will be another person appointed to the regional board from Muscogee County but as yet has not been named.

COUNTY LIBRARY BOARDS

Sherry Anthony (Marion County) – Ms. Anthony reported the Marion County Library Board will be hosting their annual reception on Thursday, January 22, 2015 and looking for approximately 60 people to attend. She stated this is an annual event that is a thank you to those entities that support the library.

Laura Larmore (Stewart County) – Ms. Larmore stated that she felt everyone was fairly knowledgeable about what was going on in Stewart County, i.e. the Lumpkin Public Library.

James Dudley (Muscogee County) – As a new member, Mr. Dudley stated it looked like he would have some reading and work to do to bring himself up to speed on the history of the Lumpkin Library.

Helene Watson said she looks forward to a successful year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

DK