

**Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board**

**March 17, 2022 – 1:00 pm**

**Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room**

Members in Attendance:

Marion Scott, Chair

Todd Robinson

Darcey Brito

Sebastian Cahill

Beth Schwartz

Grace Nagel

Reggie Lewis

Denise Eckley

SirMichael Jones

Also in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL

Tracie Price, Finance/HR

Marissa Brookins, Med. Con. Spec. MCS

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Chair Scott asked for **approval of the minutes** from the February 24, 2022, meeting. Beth Schwartz moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Sebastian Cahill. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Robinson, Brito, Nagel, Lewis, Eckley and Jones.

**Public Comment** – None

**Friends of the Library** – No report

**Muscogee County Library Foundation** – The Foundation netted \$90,000 from the Wine, Women, and Shoes event. This was an outstanding success.

**Treasurer's Report** – Tracie Price covered the Period 8 financials which ended on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Todd Robinson had a question on the salary state grant. Tracie explained that the state funding received by the CVL each year to supplement salaries. These funds are dictated by the state. There were no other questions.

**Director's Report** – Director Alan Harkness introduced the new administrative specialist, Lizette Cruz, who will also be supporting FERST Readers. Alan also welcomed new board member SirMichael Jones and new ex officio Marissa Brookins from the MCSD.

Harkness reported that a number of gutters have been stolen from the North branch. These are in the process of being replaced with gutters that have no copper so as to hinder further temptation.

There has been a difficult patron with mental health issues that has been banned from the CVL libraries but continues to return to the Mildred Terry Branch. MCS Police have been patrolling the Mildred Terry Branch this week in case this patron returns, and an off-duty police officer will be at the branch on Saturday.

The CVL will be partnering with the City of Columbus to help with the Juneteenth festivities in June. Thanks to board member Rob Landers and Foundation board member Oz Roberts, CPL will have a dress exhibit with a person from Atlanta in the Grand Reading room along with a fashion show. There will also be additional programming for the Juneteenth events.

The Smithsonian exhibit “The Bias Inside Us” is coming in July. It is a multimedia spectacular across 17 TVs. (Todd Robinson had to step out as he had an appointment.) The United States Holocaust Museum will be presenting an exhibit this summer along with an exhibit from the Georgia Holocaust Museum at the same time.

The CVL is gearing up for Summer Reading and the Children’s Book Festival on May 14, 2022. The CVL is working on a new dashboard that produces simplified, organized, and meaningful statistics and data. Director Harkness expects those reports to be available again for the board by July or August.

Director Harkness stated that the CVL is working on an arrangement with a library branding company to update the CVL brand along with a better functioning library website. It will also be a cost-saving measure as the new company will cost a fraction of the old one.

**Branch Report** – Director Harkness reported that the Teen and Children’s departments have been working with the Hardaway IB kids on collection development and program planning. The Teen department has also been working with Shaw High School. 136 students have been learning about the nominees for the Georgia Peach Book Award. They created origami bookmarks, had book discussion groups and more. The Mildred Terry staff worked with Fox Elementary School students on their Garden Day. The library staff also worked in partnership with Goodwill for Hiring Heroes.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** –

**Finance Committee** –

**Preliminary FY’23 Budget.** Finance Committee Chair Sebastian Cahill presented the Preliminary FY’ 23 Budget for approval. He thanked Tracie Price for her detailed budget report and pointed out the most significant changes in the budget for the board. Several questions were asked on whether certain items such as energy or health care costs increase or funding from the state or BOR decreases if there are plans to counteract those. Director Harkness stated that buffers are always built into the budget, and they always have secondary and third plans of where they can decrease spending if those things do happen.

Chair Scott accepted FC Chair Sebastian Cahill’s presentation of the Preliminary FY’23 Budget Report as a motion to approve. Darcy Brito seconded the

motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Schwartz, Nagel, Lewis, Eckley and Jones.

**Pay Band Correction** – There was gap between two pay bands (B1 and C3). Director Harkness presented the corrected pay band to the board for approval. Denise Eckley presented the motion to approve the correction. Reggie Lewis seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Schwartz, Nagel, Brito, and Jones.

**Chair's Report** – Chair Scott took a moment to thank Director Harkness, his team, and the Foundation for all that they do. Chair Scott also welcomed the new members. Chair Scott stated that whatever committee a board member signed up for they were assigned to that committee. If someone has not been assigned, Chair Scott has asked you to serve on a specific committee. Chair Scott asked all members to sign up for the library's email list if they are not on it.

**Next meeting will be April 28, 2022.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.**