

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

December 16,2021 – 1:00 pm

Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room

Members in Attendance:
Donovan Granville, Chair
Todd Robinson
Grace Nagel
LaRae Dixon Moore
Sebastian Cahill
Beth Schwartz
Denise Eckley

Also in Attendance:
Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director, CVL
Tracie Price, Finance/HR
Katie Burnett, Branch Manager, CPL
Megan Aarant Jackson, Teen Services
Dr. Lewis, MCSD Superintendent
Laura Ann Mann, Muscogee County
Library Foundation
Marnie Salter, Friends of Library

Chair Granville called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

Chair Granville asked for a delay in **approval of the minutes** because the Board was one member short of a quorum.

Public Comment – None

Recognition of Special Guest – Chair Granville acknowledged Dr. Lewis and asked if he had anything to say to the Board. Dr. Lewis expressed his appreciation to the library and the Library Board for their partnership and shared goals.

Friends of the Library – Marnie Salter announced that the bookstore was open again and they have a book sale coming up in January.

Muscogee County Library Foundation – Foundation Director Mann stated that they are in the middle of their Annual Campaign and that it is going well. She also reminded the Board that the Gala would be on January 20, 2022. The guest author is Lisa Windgate. She will also hold a public appearance on January 21, 2022. COVID protocols will be in place. Wine, Women, and Shoes is currently planned for March 10, 2022.

Treasurer's Report – Tracie Price covered the Period 4 and 5 financials which ended on November 30, 2021. There were no follow up questions.

Quorum was reached and Chair Granville asked for **approval of the minutes** from the October 28, 2021 meeting. Todd Robinson moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Beth Swartz. Motion was approved unanimously Robinson, Nagel, Granville, Moore, Cahill, Schwartz, and Eckley.

Director's Report – Alan Harkness drew the Board's attention to the Strategic Plan handout in front of them.

Harkness reported that he and the CPL Branch Manager, Katie Burnett visited Hardaway High School earlier that day to discuss plans to create some International Bachelorette internships.

Harkness reminded the Board that in January Chair Granville will be rolling off the Board and that LaRae Dixon Moore is currently serving as the Vice Chair. If anyone is interested in service as Chair, please let him know.

Harkness reported the library is once again partnering with the Ledger to distribute "Holiday Help" letters for families in need.

Harkness stated that he will be bringing some information to the Board soon about Intellectual Freedom and book banning. There is legislation coming that will challenge this and he wants the Board to be fully informed on the matter.

Harkness informed the Board that the library engaged a marketing consultant back in the Fall and they should expect to see some results from that training soon.

Harkness was pleased to announce the Mildred L. Terry project is moving along nicely.

Branch Report – Deputy Director Lundeen reported that Winter Reading was underway. He also shared several anecdotal stories from several branches.

A question was raised about how the 24-hour libraries were performing and Katie Burnett reported that they are holding their numbers well and are largely used as drop off and pick up locations.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

Job Description – Administrative Specialist. Harkness summarized the additional responsibilities and in particular this person's role in First Readers. Chair Granville asked a few clarifying questions about the duties and the location of this position. Motion to approve the job description was made by Sebastian Cahill, motion was seconded by Grace Nagel. Motion was approved unanimously Robinson, Nagel, Granville, Moore, Cahill, Schwartz, and Eckley.

Chair's Report – Chair Granville stated this meeting is definitely his last meeting and he's enjoyed serving on the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.