

Minutes from the Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room A

In Attendance:

John Boyd, Chair
Todd Robinson
Tamika McKenzie
David Fox
Beth Schwartz
Denise Eckley
Dr. Frank Star
Grace Nagal
LaRae Dixon Moore
Darcy Brito

Also in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Tracie Price, HR/Finance Coordinator
Tammy Battley, Operations Manager
Marnie Salter, Friend of the Library
David Goldberg, MCSD School Board
Laura Ann Mann, Muscogee County
Library Foundation
Felecia Malave, Assistant to the Director

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

Chair Boyd asked to have the minutes from the December 12, 2019 meeting approved. Todd Robinson moved to approve the minutes as presented, Beth Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Public Comment – None

Friends of the Library – Marnie Salter spoke of the success of the Delia Owens event in January at the library. The Friends sold copies of her book during the event. The Friends will also be having their next book sale, Fiction Fest, on March 14th at CPL, no book will be more than \$2.

Muscogee County Library Foundation – Laura Ann Mann explained what the Foundation is and how they help the library for the new board members. She also reiterated the success of Delia Owen’s appearance at the library, saying there were nearly 600 people in attendance. Ms. Mann also explained what Wine Women and Shoes is and that the board will be voting to close the library early in November for the event.

Director’s Report – Director Alan Harkness welcomed the new board members to the meeting and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Mr. Harkness went over the proposed budget cuts from the state and federal government. He asked if

you felt so inclined to reach out to your representatives and ask them to not approve the budget with significant cuts to libraries. The ESPLOST vote is at the end of March and it will include money for the South Branch renovation and a new North Branch.

Fines Free is continuing to be effective in bringing in new and returning customers to the library. System wide we have seen a 19% increase in cards and 9% increase in circulation since Fines Free was implemented last year. The Library System hosted the annual Staff Day training day with a focus on Trauma in the Library this year. The day was a success and presented lots of information for staff to better serve the public.

The Census will be held this year and the library is going to try and help get everyone counted. CVL has bought new laptops with federal funding to help both in the branches and on the bookmobile/out of the branches.

Mr. Harkness reviewed some policy changes that were approved by that Regional Board in January, including the Children Left After Hours Policy, Card Holder Policy, and Fees for Lost Materials Policy.

Mr. Harkness also said that the board will be asked at the April meeting to approve more money for the HVAC in CPL.

Branch Report – None because Gabriel was at PLA in Nashville.

Unfinished Business – Nomination and Election of Board Treasurer – This was tabled and members of the committee will discuss who will be the chair.

New Business –
Operations

- Selection Manager Job Description – Beth Schwartz moved to approve the job description as presented, Denise seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- General Maintenance Technician Job Description – David Fox moved to approve the job description as presented, LaRae D. Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Close CPL for 2020 Wine Women and Shoes event on November 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm – LaRae D. Moore moved to close CPL for Wine Women and Shoes, Beth Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance

- Preliminary Budget FY '21 – Todd Robinson moved to approve the preliminary budget for FY '21, Grace Nagal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report – Chair Boyd thanked everyone for their patience as he learned the role of Board Chair. He also said that he would be assigning everyone to committees and would send a list soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm.

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