

Minutes from the Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2019 – 1pm
Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room A

In Attendance:

Marion Scott, Chair
Kent Illges
John Boyd
Beth Schwartz
Lori Auten
Tamika McKenzie
Gayla Arrington
Eddie Evans
Donovan Granville

Also In Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director
Felecia Malave, Admin. Assis. to the Director
Tammy Battley, Operations Coordinator
Tracie Price, Finance & HR Coordinator
Sharron Lyon, President, Friends of the Library

Chair Marion Scott called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Eddie Evans moved to approve the minutes from the called meeting on June 18, 2019. The motion was seconded by John Boyd and unanimously approved by Scott, Illges, Boyd, Schwartz, Auten, McKenzie, Arrington, Evans and Granville.

Sharron Lyon discussed the annual Friends of the Library book sale in July. She says the event was a success, though not as successful as previous years, due to the AC being out at CPL during the event. The Friends will have their annual meeting September 16th, with Director Alan Harkness speaking at the meeting. The next Friends of the Library sale will be November 23rd for the Christmas and Cookbooks sale.

Director Alan Harkness reported the Muscogee County Library Foundation will be hosting Wine, Women and Shoes on November 14th. The Foundation will also be bringing Delia Owens for the Foundation Gala and a public event January 23rd and 24th.

Tracie Price presented the Revenue and Expenditures for the end of the last Fiscal Year to the board. She also said she will send a breakdown of what expenditures fall into each category.

Director Alan Harkness discussed the recent HVAC issues at the Columbus Public Library and how they are currently being addressed and resolved. Mr. Harkness also presented a “What We Are Doing Differently at the Library” powerpoint to discuss the improvements at CVL in the last year, including circulation numbers, patron attendance to programs, and which resources are being most utilized by customers and staff.

Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen went over the immediate impact CVL has seen since going fines free in August. He said it has brought people back into the libraries and that some staff at the South branch have said it is “like a family reunion” as people are returning to the Library. CVL has also received lots of great media coverage/publicity as we have gone Fines Free. The South branch was named the Ledger-Enquirers 2019 Readers Choice Awards winner in the Favorite Museum/Educational Outing category!

New Business:

Operations Committee: Approve changes to Library Assistant II Job Description – A motion was brought from the Operations committee to approve the changes to the job description as presented. Motion was seconded by Lori Auten and unanimously approved by Scott, Illges, Boyd, Schwartz, Auten, McKenzie, Arrington, Evans and Granville.

Financial Committee: Request permission to spent additional money in reserves to amend the Capital Outlay Grant for the addition/renovation of the South Branch – A motion was brought by the finance committee to approve the additional money for the South Branch addition/renovation. The motion was seconded by Donovan Granville and unanimously approved by Scott, Illges, Boyd, Schwartz, Auten, McKenzie, Arrington, Evans and Granville.

Chair Marion Scott says she will begin volunteering with GARS in the recording studio at CPL next week. There will also be 5 people rotating off the board in December with one vacancy already on the board. The nominating committee will be appointed in the coming days and bring a slate of proposed new members to the board for a vote at the October meeting.

The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2019 at the Columbus Public Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.