

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board
August 25, 2022 – 1:00 pm
Columbus Public Library – Synovus Room

Members in Attendance:

Marion Scott, Chair
Sebastian Cahill
Grace Nagel
LaRae Dixon
Susan Berry
Beth Schwartz
Todd Robinson
Denise Eckley

Also in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director
Tracie Price, Finance/HR
Laura Ann Mann, Exec. Director MCLF
Marissa Brookins, Ex-Officio MCSD
Marnie Salter, Friends Committee Chair

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

Chair Scott asked for **approval of the minutes** from the **May 26th, 2022** meeting.

Todd Robinson moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Darcy Brito.

Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Dixon, Berry, Schwartz, Robinson, Eckley, and Brito.

Public Comment – None

Friends of the Library – Marnie Salter informed the board that the Friends of the Library have submitted all of their paperwork to the state. As of last week, they dissolved as an independent 501-3C and will now operate under the Muscogee County Library Foundation. Their fundraising events and the bookstore will not change.

Muscogee County Library Foundation – Laura Ann Mann stated that they are happy to have the Friends of the Library be a part of the Foundation. The Foundation committee is working on merging the processes smoothly in the transition to successfully continue the mission of supporting the services of the CVL.

Treasurer's Report – Tracie Price covered the Period 12 financials which ended on June 30th, 2022. There were no questions. She also reviewed Period 1 for the new FY23 fiscal year. Todd Robinson asked a question about reserve expenditures. Director Alan and Tracie explained that the money was budgeted for the cost of the air conditioning replacement at the North Columbus branch was budgeted into FY22 to come out of reserves however the planning took longer than expected so that expense has been rolled over to be taken out of reserves in FY23 instead.

Director's Report – Director Harkness went over the newly designed Dashboard Report for July 2022. Director Alan explains that this is comparing 2021, when COVID-19 had many things closed, to 2022 when things are reopening. Once we enter 2023 there will be a better year over year comparison.

This year CVL had a very busy summer. In addition to the Summer Reading, CVL staff participated in 80+ session at schools across the county during MCSD Summer Learning Experience. The Clothing Story exhibit and the "Bias Inside Us" exhibit were both very successful. Plans are in the works to bring The Clothes Story II in 2023.

Director Harkness encouraged everyone to stop by the newly renovated Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library. He also mentioned that the CVL will be taking over the LENA Start program from the Health Dept in January of 2023. He will bring a

presentation to the board a later date with information on that program.

Branch Report - Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen showed a video presentation of the events that happened at the CVL branches during the summer of 2022 to accompany the branch report that had been distributed to the board in the meeting packet.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

1. **Approval of the closing dates and times for Foundation Events:**
 - a. **Thursday, November 17, 2022 early closing at 1PM for the Cocktails & Comedy Fundraising Event.**
 - b. **Thursday, January 19, 2023 early closing at 5PM for the Founder's Society Gala.**

Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the closing dates presented by the Foundation. Darcy Brito made a motion to approve. Beth Schwartz made a motion to second. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Dixon, Berry, Schwartz, Robinson, Eckley, and Brito.

2. **Approval of Changes to Pay Bands A & B**

Director Harkness explained the process in assessing market value for the proposed changes and how the CVL plans to pay for the increase. After some discussion Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the changes to pay bands A and B as proposed. Denise Eckley made a motion to approve. Beth Schwartz made a motion to second. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Dixon, Berry, Schwartz, Robinson, Eckley, and Brito.

3. **Approval of Revised Final Budget for FY22**

Sebastian Cahill presented the revised budget and noted that the net impact of the revisions is insignificant. There were no questions. Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the revised final budget of FY22. LaRae Dixon made a motion to approve. Denise Eckley made a motion to second. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Dixon, Berry, Schwartz, Robinson, Eckley, and Brito.

4. **Approval of the final budget for South Construction**

Director Harkness explained that the bids that came for the construction of the new South Columbus Public Library came up nearly 2 million dollars over the last year's estimates. Director Harkness explained how the CVL plans to pay for the increase and gave several back up plans that are in place to cover the cost. The CVL wants to lock in this bid now before construction prices continue to skyrocket as they have in the past year. After some discussion Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the final budget for the South construction. Darcy Brito made a motion to approve. Sebastian Cahill made a motion to second. Motion was approved unanimously by Scott, Cahill, Nagel, Dixon, Berry, Schwartz, Robinson, Eckley, and Brito.

Chair's Report – Chair Scott did not have a report to present but wanted to thank everyone at the CVL for the great work they doing for the community. She also thanked the board for the wonderful work they are doing to help CVL create an impact for the future of Columbus, and told everyone how proud she was of all the good work that is

being done.

**Next meeting is set tentatively for September 22, 2022.
Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.**

