

Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Meridith Jarrell	David Fox	Owen Ditchfield
Lisa Goodwin	Mary Bode	Helene Watson
Len Williams	M. A. Dowdell	Marion Scott

Ex-Officios: Ed Burdeshaw, Library Foundation
Suzanne Burdeshaw, Friends of Libraries

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Eddie Evans Carleton Coleman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lori Auten Kent Illges

Ex-Officios: David Lewis, MCSD Superintendent
John Wells, MCSD Board
Shannon Smallman, MCSD Board

OTHERS ATTENDING

Alan Harkness, CVL Director
Lyn Anderson, CVL Chief Financial Officer
Gabriel Lundeen, CVL Deputy Director
Mark Rice, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Chair Meridith Jarrell called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

MINUTES

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the April 24, 2014 meeting. David Fox moved the minutes be approved as presented. Lisa Goodwin seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Suzanne Burdeshaw reported on behalf of the Friends. She reported the Friends have approximately 525 members at this time. She encouraged all Board members to join the Friends. She also asked members promote membership among friends and co-workers to join as well.

Ms. Burdeshaw stated that the Friends participated in the Arts in the Park event. She said this was the first time the Friends had done something like this. She stated the organization got a lot of exposure, some new memberships and sold some boxes of books. She said they plan to participate again. She asked that if anyone hears of another venue that would be appropriate for the Friends to be involved in to please let them know.

Ms. Burdeshaw distributed flyers to the board members advertising the upcoming book sale the Friends will be having in August. She said that John Greenman will be heading up that event.

Ms. Burdeshaw informed the Board that if they would like to know more about the inner-workings of the Friends to please consider volunteering with them. She said they can use people in the bookstore and sorting books. She said an individual does not have to work a certain amount of time every week, just what they feel they can do.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mr. Burdeshaw reported it has been a busy month for the Foundation. He said they have gone through the process of identifying a new Executive Director for the Foundation. He said they are very happy with the candidate that was chosen. He said they are finalizing that process and will make that announcement the middle of next week and knows the Library Board will be pleased. He said this is the first step in doing a better job of supporting the library.

The Chair stated the new Executive Director's office will be housed at the Columbus Public Library. She explained this position is employed by the Library Foundation and not the Library.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyn Anderson reviewed the Period 10 Financial statement with the Board. Revenue is just slightly under budget. There was nothing unusual during the period. He reported that expenses are on target for the period. David Fox moved the Treasurer's Report be approved as distributed. Owen Ditchfield seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Helene Watson asked what expenses have been incurred already with the summer reading program. Mr. Anderson stated that some programs had to be paid for ahead of time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. The Director added some additional comments to his report.

There is going to be some savings on employee health insurance because it is not going to increase as it was projected for 2015. The state funding formula has stopped for now and there was going to be about a \$22,000 reduction from the state. He said the General Assembly has put that on hold until FY2015.

Mr. Harkness reported he wanted the Board to view a video that was produced by some of the library staff. The purpose of the video was to use as a presentation video to a potential donor. He said he was very proud of their efforts and it shows the talent and imagination of the staff.

BRANCH REPORT

Gabe Lundeen reported that right now everything going on in the branches is a march toward the summer reading program. He stated the kick-off event, Fan Fest, was held last Saturday with approximately 1,000 people attending the event. He said it very successful with a lot for every one of all ages. The Chair asked if all of the branches are participating in the summer reading program. Mr. Lundeen said there will be events and programming for all city and county branches.

Mr. Lundeen said that for the last year or so the staff has been looking at digital and technological programs. The program staff came up with has been named AMP(ed). He said the library has been looking at ways to make things. It is a programming model more than one specific program. He said these programs are about play because the library is a partner in education and also an informal education setting and teens tend to learn more from each other through play. He presented a demonstration of Makey Makey. The product, when connected to a computer can turn everyday objects into touchpads, piano keys, joysticks, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1999 SPLOST Funds – The Chair reported the Facilities Committee met to review the 1999 SPLOST Funds that must be used to build and equip the Columbus Public Library. A revised list was distributed to the Board. As soon as the Board approved the SPLOST expenditures being presented to them, the library administration will move forward in going through not only the library's process for purchasing but also the City Council.

David Fox asked if what was being done was to vote on the recommendation by the Facilities Committee to be sent to City Council. The Chair stated that this was a recommendation by the Facilities Committee.

Marion Scott asked what the deadline is for spending the funds. The Chair said there is no deadline but that the City cannot close out the construction of the Columbus Public Library nor the SPLOST until the funds are spent.

The recommendation to approve the 1999 SPLOST spending list be approved as presented. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

Approval of FY2014/2015 Budget – Mr. Anderson explained very little had changed in the budget since the Board approved the preliminary budget in February. On the revenue side of the budget, the only item changed is the property tax estimate given by the school district. The final number was reduced by \$77,558 or .2%. Mr. Anderson said he still did not have the state numbers yet but feels the numbers being used for the budget are in the ballpark. On the expense side of the budget, the line item for Employee Benefits was reduced by \$100,000. The other increase was for renovation in the amount of \$22,442.

Marion Scott asked if the \$350,000 in revenue from the Foundation would be impacted by their hiring of an executive director. Mr. Burdeshaw stated that it would not.

The recommendation by the Finance Committee to approve the FY2014/2015 Budget was approved unanimously.

The Chair explained to the Board that the Art Committee is not a standing committee of the Library Board. It is made up of members of the Library Board as well as citizens from the community. The Art Committee met to review some art being donated to the library on behalf of a local artist, Leah Feinstein, who is no longer resides in Columbus but in California. The artwork has been accepted and has been delivered to the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Recess – The Chair stated that the Board normally does not meet in the month of July or August. Lisa Goodwin moved the Board recess for the months of July and August. Helene Watson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reminded the Board that they will discuss the Board Self-Assessment after the meeting adjourns in June. She asked all Board members to please try to attend this meeting. She said the meeting may run about an hour and twenty minutes.

BOARD EDUCATION

Board Education was combined in with the Branch Report.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.