

Muscogee County Library Board
Thursday, June 26, 2014
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Meridith Jarrell	Mary Bode	Helene Watson
Carleton Coleman	Owen Ditchfield	Marion Scott
Lori Auten	Kent Illges	

Ex-Officios: Jeanne Swift, Library Foundation
Bunky Clark, Friends of Libraries

MEMBERS EXCUSED

M. A. Dowdell	David Fox	Lisa Godwin
Len Williams	Eddie Evans	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ex-Officios: David Lewis, Muscogee County School District
Shannon Smallman, Muscogee County School District
John Wells, Muscogee County School District

OTHERS ATTENDING

Alan Harkness, CVL Director
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Mark Rice, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Newspapers
Henry McCoy, CVL Programming Manager

Chair Meridith Jarrell called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

MINUTES

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting. Owen Ditchfield moved the minutes be approved as distributed. Helene Watson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Bunky Clark reported that the Friends are currently working on their upcoming book sale. She said they are very excited about the quality of books being donated. She added that the Children's Book collection is the best in the city. She encouraged anyone that is not a member of the Friends to join. Membership in the Friends allows those members to preview and purchase books the day before the sale actually begins.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Chair recognized Jeanne Swift for the Library Foundation report and reminded the Board this would be Ms. Swift's last Board meeting as Chair of the Library Foundation. Ed Burdeshaw will take over that post on July 1, 2014.

Ms. Swift expressed her appreciation to the Board for allowing her to work with them during her tenure as Library Foundation Board Chair. Ms. Swift introduced Laura Ann Mann as the new Library Foundation Executive Director. Ms. Mann's office is located on the 3rd floor of the Columbus Public Library. The Chair reminded Board members that Ms. Mann is an employee of the Library Foundation and not the library.

Ms. Swift informed the Board that the original 2013/2014 Library Foundation budget has been increased from \$350,000 to approximately \$379,000. She stated that \$25,000 of the increase has been designated for the Children's Book Festival.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chair stated Lyn Anderson is not at the meeting which means he is missing his first Board meeting ever. She stated Alan Harkness would be providing the report in Mr. Anderson's absence.

Mr. Harkness review Period 11 with the Board. Revenue was on target for the period and all revenue from the other counties has been received. He stated that expenses were also on target for the period.

Mr. Ditchfield asked is there had been no travel since it was showing zero. Mr. Harkness stated that is for the state and there has not been any funds spent. He stated there had been local travel which comes from a separate account.

The Chair the final numbers for the fiscal year will be presented to the Board at the September meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was distributed with the Board packet. Mr. Harkness added to his report that he had attended the Next Library Conference in Chicago (paid for by the Knight Foundation). This conference was about trends in libraries and where things are headed. It was a great conference and I plan to begin looking at how we may use some of the things discussed at

CVL. There was some great discussion on teen programming, tracking customer service journeys as they interact with staff and the concept of prototyping programming.

He reported that he is applying for Leadership Columbus. He said he looking forward to getting involved with the Chamber and Leadership Columbus.

There has been a delay in the switchover with the new Internet service provider. Windstream was supposed to start July 1, 2014. They bid for many library systems to provide ISP service and may have bitten off a little more than they can chew so it is looking more like August or September. It should be an easy switchover that does not interfere with service.

Mr. Harkness reported on the air conditioning problems which caused the library to have to shut down. He stated the problem with the a/c caused the library to have to shut down due to the impact on the server room. Currently administration is looking at what could be done down the line to keep a shutdown from happening again. He stated they are looking at more services on the Cloud and other options are being looked at such as supplemental a/c or possibly moving the server room to another part of the building because the third floor does tend to get hotter than other areas in the building.

Owen Ditchfield asked if it was a part of the geothermal system that failed. Mr. Harkness stated that initially it was know that there was a motor that pumps the geothermal. A new motor was ordered plus some pipes had to be replaced. Mr. Harkness said the whole situation was a little more complex than he understands. Mr. Ditchfield asked if the system was still under warranty and what kind of impact did it have on the contingency fund. Mr. Harkness reported that he had not seen the bottom line of what the exact costs are going to be.

Kent Illges said it had only been a few months ago that the Board discussed the viability of the geo-thermal system. He asked if it was saving the system money. Mr. Harkness said yes it is saving money but whether it is saving as much as they would like is a hypothetical question. He said he could not answer whether it is doing exactly as it is supposed to do but he can report there are other systems in place to augment the geo-thermal. Mr. Illges asked if there was an engineer looking into what can be done going forward. Mr. Harkness stated there is someone helping with the programming load because there appears to be a software issue so he is working to get the software working as it was intended.

The Chair stated engineers were brought in when the building was first occupied because there was a problem in the Non-Fiction area getting to hot so a supplemental air was put in and it created a good balance until the pump quit working properly on Thursday.

BRANCH REPORT

Gabe Lundeen reported that he wanted to express his gratitude to the staff during the shutdown of the Columbus Public Library. Story time normally held at CPL was taken over by the North Columbus Branch.

Mr. Lundeen reported he is always appreciative when the library system and school district can come together to better inform them of what the library provides to the community. He stated

the Veronica Collins, Chief Academic Officer for the school district rode on the bookmobile and was very involved in the work they do. He stated that Mr. Lewis also wants to participate in the future and ride on the bookmobile.

As of July 1, 2014, there will no longer be a CLASS location at the Columbus Public Library. However, a lot of the service that the library can still perform will be housed on the 2nd floor at the Columbus Public Library. This will actually be an improvement in when the equipment is available. Previously, it was only available from the time the library opens until 5:00 p.m. It will not be available until closing and on weekends. The main change will be the audio books will no longer be available through CPL but customers can still get them through GPLS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1999 SPLOST Funds – Mr. Harkness reported that he and Newt Aaron will be meeting to go over details of meeting with the city. The Chair explained that since this was a joint city/school system SPLOST, all invoices must go through the city council.

NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair asked if everyone received the newsletter from GPLS. Alan Harkness stated all trustees should be receiving the newsletter either via mail or email. Debbie McGreggor stated that GPLS had asked for electronic addresses for all trustees and regular mail addresses for those that do not use email. She said she had sent this information to GPLS so everyone should be receiving the newsletter via email and if they are not, please let her know.

The Chair stated that three Chattahoochee Valley Libraries employees were mentioned in the latest edition of the newsletter. She recognized three people that were recognized on April 14th, National Library Workers Day, in the newsletter. Among Georgia's Star Nominees for 2014 were three staff members at the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries in Columbus, Megan Aarant at the South Columbus Branch, Deborah Clark at the Mildred L. Terry Branch and Tammy Battley in Financial Services.

With Alan Harkness' one year anniversary, his performance evaluation has been completed and filed with the school district.

The Chair reminded the Board that the next meeting will not be until September 25, 2014, after the summer recess.

BOARD EDUCATION

Programming – Henry McCoy -- Mr. McCoy provided the Board with an overview of programming and the partnerships it involves.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.