

Muscogee County Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 25, 2014  
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Meridith Jarrell      Mary Bode      Helene Watson  
Carleton Coleman      Kent Illges      Owen Ditchfield  
Lisa Goodwin      David Fox      Len Williams  
Edie Evans

Ex-Officios: Ed Burdeshaw, Library Foundation  
Sharon Self, Friends of Libraries  
Shannon Smallman, Muscogee County School District

MEMBERS EXCUSED

M. A. Dowdell      Lori Auten

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

OTHERS ATTENDING

Alan Harkness, CVL Director  
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director  
Lyn Anderson, CVL CFO  
Gabriel Lundeen, CVL Deputy Director

Chair Meridith Jarrell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting. Helene Watson moved the minutes be approved as presented. Owen Ditchfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

## FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Sharon Self reported on behalf of the Friends of Libraries. Ms. Self reported that sales during the Children's Book Festival were extremely good. The Friends made approximately \$4,500 during the Festival. She stated that the Friends are now working on a Brown Bag sale to be held in October. The event will sell brown bags in small and large sizes. The customers will pay one price for the bag and then fill it up with as many books as it will hold. This will be a two-day event.

## LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Library Foundation is currently in the process of sending out their annual appeal letter. They are also making plans for the annual Gala in January 2015. The Gala guest speaker will be author Susan Orlean.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyn Anderson reviewed the financials for FY2014 Period 12 and FY2015 Period 2. In both reports the system is on target both in revenue and expenses.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Alan Harkness reported the Children's Book Festival was a huge success with over 6,000 people attending. He stated that 78% of the funding for the Festival came from outside sources. Mr. Harkness reported that card registrations were up 30%.

Owen Ditchfield asked if the Friends of Libraries and Library Foundation assisted with volunteer help for the Festival. Mr. Harkness said that the Foundation provided lunch to all volunteers and the Friends were visibly active with the Festival.

Mr. Harkness reported that he has been asked by the State Librarian to assist other library systems in the state with trustee training. He stated that he had discussed with Muscogee Board Chair Meridith Jarrell and assured the Board that any time spent doing the training will not take away from his duties with the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.

## BRANCH REPORT

Gabriel Lundeen reported that the Children's Book Festival was not only a success for the library but was an extremely valuable team-building exercise as well.

Mr. Lundeen reported that funding from the State in the amount of \$19,000 has been spent. The STEM funds are to be used to increase, enhance and expand activities for kids, tweens and teens. Items chosen to purchase were based on STEM programs the library already has been doing through the Amped programming model. Of the funds made available, \$5,000 was spent on books and \$14,000 was spent on electronics to be used in these programs. One significant purchase was a 3D printer.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1999 SPLOST – Chair Meridith Jarrell and Director Alan Harkness will go before the Columbus City Council on October 14, 2014.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Nominating Committee Recommendations

Board Member Reappointments – Nominating Committee Chair David Fox stated it was the recommendation of the committee to recommend to the Muscogee County Board of Education the reappointment of Meridith Jarrell and David Fox to the Muscogee County Library Board. Mr. Fox explained that board members are allowed to fulfill two full terms on the Library Board. This will be the second term for Ms. Jarrell and Mr. Fox. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

Board Member Replacements – Effective December 31, 2014, there will be three vacancies on the Muscogee County Library Board. The following Board members will rotate off the Library Board: Lisa Goodwin and M. A. Dowdell who will have completed their 2-term tenure on the Board. The third vacancy was held by Michelle Griffin who resigned in January 2014 and was never replaced. The Nominating Committee recommended that James Dudley and Dr. Frank Star be recommended to the Muscogee County Board of Education to replace Ms. Goodwin and Ms. Dowdell. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

Mr. Fox informed the Board there was another individual approved by the Nominating Committee to replace Ms. Griffin and that was Mr. Mario Davis. Unfortunately, Mr. Davis will be relocating to Atlanta soon and will not be able to serve. Mr. Fox asked members to please send him any recommendations they may have for this vacancy. He also asked members to consider serving as an officer on the Board.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Combined November/December Meeting – The Chair stated it is customary due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays that the November and December meetings be combined into one meeting. She recommended Tuesday, December 2, 2014 as the date of the combined meeting. Lisa Goodwin moved to approve the combined meeting date of Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Kent Illges seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## BOARD EDUCATION

Director Alan Harkness provided an informative presentation to the Board on new programs being implemented. The new programs are CLUE and Brainfuse. Working in conjunction with the Muscogee County School District, every student in Muscogee County will have a CLUE account. These students will be able to use this account to access Brainfuse. Brainfuse is an educational assistance program that allows for one-on-one tutoring via the Internet. There are also other valuable resources available to the students through the CLUE account. Mr. Harkness stated he would be meeting with other county board of education members to see if their system may be interested in CLUE/Brainfuse.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board will be Thursday, October 23, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.