

Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 2008
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending

Bobsie Swift	Jimmy Elder	Frank Star
Kelly Pridgen	Meridith Jarrell	M. A. Dowdell
Helene Watson	Price Walker, Jr.	Barbara Kamensky

Members Excused

Jay Alexander	Rick Covington	Gary Griesheim
Linda Harper	Mimi Childs	Lisa Goodwin
John Phillips	John Wells	Patricia Hugley-Green

Others Attending

Lyn Anderson, CVRLS Chief Financial Officer
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Stephen Pharis, Columbus Public Library Reference Department Supervisor
Suzanne Barnes, CVRLS CLASS Coordinator
Dr. Billy Kendall, Muscogee County School District

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

The Chair asked if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting. Frank Star moved the minutes be approved as presented. Meridith Jarrell seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The Chair did recognize Dr. Billy Kendall of the Muscogee County School District. She informed the Board that she had requested Dr. Phillips bring the site plan presentation boards to the meeting if at all possible. Since Dr. Phillips was out of town, Dr. Kendall discussed the site plans and stressed that these are still "proposed" plans. He indicated that there will be approximately 19 acres of greenspace remaining once the school district and city have completed their construction projects. Chair Swift reminded the Board that any unspent funds from the library's SPLOST are designated to assist with the greenspace. Bobsie Swift asked if there were any plans for the old Rigdon Road School. Dr. Kendall stated there have been many plans discussed but a decision has not been made at this time.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

There was no report.

BOARD EDUCATION/ORGANIZATION

Suzanne Barnes, CLASS Coordinator, presented a brief summary of new technology that will soon be available to CLASS patrons. She stated that currently patrons use large clunky cassette machines for listening to books. A new digital machine has been developed which is much lighter, smaller and as many as 3 – 4 books can be on one card reader. She distributed information on the new machine to the Board. (Copy attached to these minutes.) She stated that it will be a few months before the machines become available but she has already had three patrons sign up for the new machine.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair recognized Newt Aaron for an update on the SPLOST Needs List. Mr. Aaron stated he would first like to give a brief update on the Mildred L. Terry Construction Project. Mr. Aaron reported that the plans have been finished, permits have been applied for and they are currently taking bids from subcontractors.

Mr. Aaron distributed a SPLOST Needs List Status Report to the Board and reviewed the report with them. (Copy attached to the minutes.) He reported that the majority of the list should be completed within 60 days. He stated that the reading garden should be completed within 4 months. In reviewing the exterior projects, Mr. Aaron stressed to the Board that SPLOST funds cannot be used for the old Firestone site.

The Chair expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for Mr. Aaron's attention to detail and dedication to maintaining costs.

The Chair recognized Meridith Jarrell. Ms. Jarrell moved the agenda be amended to allow all action items be brought forward so that they could be acted on while there was still a quorum. Frank Star seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Recommendation: Approval of expenditure and purchase for the continuation of 1-year maintenance service from Dynix for maintenance, software maintenance and peripheral maintenance in the amount of \$33,434.59 from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Jimmy Elder seconded the committee recommendation. **The committee recommendation passed unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Committee Chair asked Lyn Anderson to report on the Period 9 financials. Mr. Anderson reported that the library is slightly ahead of budget in revenue. He noted that in expenses there were a few items that seemed out of the ordinary but explained that these were items that were approved by the Board in previous months but are just now being paid. He directed the Board's attention to Employee Benefits and noted that \$28,000 of this amount was a Worker's Compensation settlement. Under Purchased Professional Services, just under \$10,000 of that amount was for the person's legal fees in the Worker's Compensation settlement. Frank Star moved the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Meridith Jarrell seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Swift informed the Board that Ms. Muller's mother is having surgery on Friday and that is why she is not at the Board meeting. Ms. Muller asked the Chair to add a few items to her Director's Report that was distributed with the meeting packet.

Susan Hayes, South Columbus Branch Library Manager, has been selected to review mysteries, suspense and historical fiction for the *Library Journal*.

Debbie McGreggor distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting a copy of an article from the *Library Journal*. The Chair stated that this was from Ms. Muller and she felt it was information the Board should read.

Silvia Bunn, Mildred L. Terry Branch Library Manager, has served as a judge for the Smith Scholarship along with Betsy Covington, Karl Douglass and Sydney Smith.

Alice Budge, former Muscogee County Library Board member and current Friends of Libraries President, will receive the Humanities Council Award on May 8th. Mimi Childs and Henry McCoy will attend the function on behalf of the library.

The Chair stated that Dr. Pippas' daughter celebrated her birthday by asking her friends to bring money to donate to charity and the Children's Department was one of the benefactors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Stephen Pharis for an update on the downloadable audio books. Mr. Pharis reported that Overdrive, one of the two companies (the other being NetLibrary) offering downloadable audio books to libraries, has announced that they will soon begin to offer titles without digital rights management (DRM). These titles will be compatible with nearly every MP3 player and mobile phone, including iPods. The

DRM is a software snippet which prevents copying of the books to other media. It also prevents DRM protected items from being played on iPods. The removal of this protection by Random House Publishers, in conjunction with Overdrive is a major breakthrough in the market. It is expected that other publishers and most likely NetLibrary will follow suit.

The library originally went with NetLibrary because they offered titles that could be checked out by multiple users, while Overdrive titles could only be checked out by one user at a time. It is recommended that we give the market a chance to sort things out and re-evaluate our choice of vendors in six months or so.

The Chair reminded the Board that at the last meeting, it was discussed as to whether the library wanted to be included in the school district's upcoming SPLOST by adding a new branch library in North Columbus. The Chair reported that she and Claudya Muller had a very positive meeting with Dr. Phillips and informed him of the Board's decision not to be included at this time. She stated they did ask if funds could be requested in the SPLOST for the Mildred L. Terry Project. Dr. Phillips said this would not be feasible since the project would be completed by the time funds would actually become available. The Chair said they all agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Committee Recommendations: The Committee recommended the following Bylaws Committee.

Barbara Kamensky, Chair
Rick Covington
Meridith Jarrell

Frank Star seconded the committee recommendation. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

The Committee recommended the following Nominating Committee.

Immediate Past Chair
Chair
Chair Elect
Secretary
Treasurer

Jimmy Elder seconded the committee recommendation. **The recommendation passed unanimously.** The Chair stressed the importance of the involvement of all board members in suggesting possible candidates for serving on the Library Board.

The Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Meridith Jarrell reported that Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager and Library Board Member, will be recognized as one of the Women of Achievement at a banquet tonight.

Frank Star asked Dr. Kendall if he felt the Park Coalition should be invited to review the site plan of the school district especially given the 19 acres of greenspace that will be available. Chair Swift stated that the site plan of the Muscogee County School District and the City of Columbus is completely out of the hands of the Muscogee County Library Board. The Chair stated should the Park Coalition can attend any of the school district meetings to learn more about the use of the greenspace.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.