

Muscogee County Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 25, 2008  
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending

|                   |                |               |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Kelly Pridgen     | Frank Star     | Linda Harper  |
| Mimi Childs       | Bobsie Swift   | M. A. Dowdell |
| Price Walker, Jr. | Gary Griesheim | Lisa Goodwin  |
| Barbara Kamensky  | Helene Watson  | Jimmy Elder   |

Members Excused

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Rick Covington   | Patricia Hugley-Green |
| Jay Alexander    | John Wells            |
| Meridith Jarrell | John Phillips         |

Others Attending

Claudya Muller, CVL Director  
Lyn Anderson, CVL Chief Financial Officer  
Gary Wortley, CVL Chief Operations Officer  
Robin Shader, CVL Chief of Public Service  
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director  
Newt Aaron, Newton Aaron & Associates  
Linda Hyles, CVL Marketing Coordinator  
Brooke Mann, CVL Volunteer Coordinator

Chair Swift called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the June 26, 2008 meeting. Lisa Goodwin moved the minutes be approved as presented. Frank Star seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudya Muller introduced Robin Shader to the Board. Robin Shader is the new Chief of Public Service for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries. Ms. Muller stated that Ms. Shader was formerly at the Live Oak Library System in Savannah, Georgia.

## FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Gary Griesheim reported that the Friends of Libraries held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Columbus Public Library. He said that John Lyles, CPL Genealogy Department Head gave an outstanding presentation.

He stated that the Friends will issue a check in the amount of \$25,000 for the Mildred L. Terry Construction Project. At the meeting, the Friends approved the budget for the 2008/2009 fiscal year to include more than \$44,000 for a number of library programs.

He informed the Board that all profits earned by the Friends through the Library Store are returned directly back to the library to help with funding. He encouraged Board members to purchase books from the store.

## BOARD EDUCATION/ORGANIZATION

Linda Hyles made a presentation to the Board on the library system name change from Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System to Chattahoochee Valley Libraries. She reviewed various segments of the branding campaign to include billboards, special kits for the branches that will include a CD that will contain templates, logos, etc. and a new newsletter that will replace the "Beacon" and will be called "Between the Lines."

Claudya Muller informed the Board that the changeover to the new name will be seen gradually on printed matter. She stated that all old stationary, business cards, etc. will be depleted before ordering items with the new name and revised logo.

Brooke Mann, CVL Volunteer Coordinator, spoke to the Board about the recent Volunteer of the Year program. She stated that every branch and department nominated a volunteer they felt deserving of the award. She reviewed the names and backgrounds of those individuals that were nominated. See attached information.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Chair Swift recognized Lyn Anderson for the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Anderson reviewed Period 2 with the Board and reported that both revenue and expenses are on target for the period.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Swift stated that the Director's Report was sent to members in their packet and asked if they had any questions or if Ms. Muller had anything to add to the report.

Ms. Muller reminded the Board of the upcoming Staff Picnic to be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Uchee Campground at Fort Benning. She reminded the Board Members that if they wish to attend they need to send their money (\$10) to Debbie McGreggor as soon as possible.

She reported that Lyn Anderson is working hard on the state funding cuts. She stated that so far the library system has been able to absorb the cuts. She stated that the Bainbridge library system is interested in merging the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped with the one at CVL. She stated that if this merger should take place, Bainbridge would be responsible for receiving and sending out the tapes and CVL would be responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment. She said that an October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting is planned with Bainbridge for further discussions.

Board member, Linda Harper, expressed her admiration for the service. Due to recent eye problems, she has been using the service and stated that it is “a wonderful wonderful service.”

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Newton Aaron, Newt Aaron and Associates, reviewed the SPLOST Needs List with the Board and stated that there are only about five items on the list that have not been completed but should be by the end of the year.

Mr. Aaron showed the Board the rendering of the new Children’s Garden. He stated that this space should be completed by mid-December. He also noted that landscaping is being conducted on the area located in front of the building near Macon Road. Mr. Aaron reported that the Firestone Property will be landscaped at the same time and the funding for that portion of the property is being donated by the Muscogee County Library Foundation. The Columbus Consolidated Government and the Muscogee County School District are currently working on the approval process for this property. Lisa Goodwin stated that as soon as the City receives a letter from Dr. Phillips, the work can begin.

Mr. Aaron stated that \$600,000 had been set aside for greenspace and that after the Needs List has been completed, an additional \$400,000 will be added to the \$600,000 for greenspace. This money will be returned to the city to be used as the city chooses.

Mr. Aaron reported that the Mildred L. Terry construction is going well and there has been a lot of noticeable change. He reported that the geothermal wells have been installed. He stated that they are looking at a late winter, early spring opening. He showed the Board the color pallet to be used inside the building and stated that most of the FF&E pricing has been completed and purchase orders are being issued.

He reported that the portion of the land that will be left after the old facility is torn down will become a garden area. He stated that the Facilities Committee requested that a fence be installed around the area to keep down cross-through traffic from neighboring businesses. He stated that currently the plans include berms, hardscape, sod, trees and seat walls. He asked the Board to let him know of any other ideas they may have for the space. He reported that they are going to try to incorporate the existing statue at the library in the garden area.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities – Facilities Chair, Mimi Childs, asked Claudya Muller to address the North Columbus Branch Library HVAC System issue. Ms. Muller reported that when the new cooling tower was installed, many additional items were found to be in need of repair or replacement. She said that the school district will hire an engineer to assess the situation.

Ms. Muller explained to the committee that this requires an RFP and that the additional funds will have to come from the operating reserve. Jimmy Elder moved to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the reserve for the repair of the HVAC system at the North Columbus Library. Frank Star seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Operations – Committee Chair Helene Watson brought a committee recommendation to the Board that the new position of Virtual Branch Manager be approved and the library begin to search for an individual to fill the position. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Claudya Muller informed the Board that she had met with Sandra Hunter and Rosa Cooper of Metra. The library and Metra will be partnering to encourage the use of public transportation. The program will involve a punch card that the customer will have punched at the library. After the card has been punched 10 times, the customer will receive a free bus pass. The program is planned to start in November.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair asked the Board to make sure when they receive their ALA dues invoice to please send them to Debbie McGreggor.

The Chair expressed thanks to Aflac for their generosity in donating \$3,000 toward the purchase of a piece of art from the current Columbus Artist Guild exhibit at the library. The Board members were shown the piece of art that was selected entitled, "60,000 ." Ms. Muller reported that the location for the artwork to be hung has not been determined.

The Chair asked the Board members to pick up the book, "Library Board Strategic Guide" as they leave the meeting. The Board members are asked to return the books when they leave the board so that they may be given to new board members.

The Chair reminded that the meeting in October will be the training session at the South Columbus Library. She urged Board members to carpool because parking at that branch is very limited. The session begins at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.