

Muscogee County Library Board  
Thursday, February 26, 2009  
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending

Kelly Pridgen	Bobsie Swift	Mimi Childs
Barbara Mack	Gary Griesheim	Frank Star
Price Walker, Jr.	Clark Gillett, Jr.	Jimmy Elder
Rick Covington		

Members Excused

M. A. Dowdell  
Barbara Kamensky

Others Attending

Claudya Muller, CVL Director  
Lyn Anderson, CVL Chief Financial Officer  
Robin Shader, CVL Chief of Public Service  
Scott Ferguson, President, United Way

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

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting. Frank Star moved to approve the minutes as printed. Bobsie Swift seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair recognized Scott Ferguson for public comment. Mr. Ferguson presented the idea of a Born Learning Trail to the Board. Mr. Ferguson stated that the purpose of the Trail is to offer learning opportunities to the very young. He explained that the Trail provides basic education in the form of signs depicting various shapes, colors, etc. He said the Trail also has a hopscotch game drawn on the sidewalk. He said the Trail cost approximately \$1,500.

Ms. Muller stated that she had visited the Born Learning Trail at the Shirley Winston Park and thought it would be perfect located on the circular sidewalk in front of the Columbus Public Library. Lisa Goodwin reported that she had also visited the park and took some pictures of it. Ms. Muller asked Ms. Goodwin to email the pictures to Debbie McGreggor and she can share them with the other Board members.

The Chair asked that the Born Learning Trail be brought back to the Board in March under Unfinished Business so that the Board could have time to review and make a decision.

## FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Gary Griesheim reported that the Friends of Libraries had a very successful book sale on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Public Library. He also reported that on those same dates, sales were very good at the Library Store. The book sale brought in sales of \$4,000 and the bookstore made \$2,000. He expressed appreciation to everyone who attended and to the volunteers who worked during the sale.

Mr. Griesheim stated that the Friends of Libraries supported the Staff In-Service Day on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He reported that the Friends provided the funds for breakfast, lunch, break time snacks and door prizes. He said that the Friends will also be providing support for The Big Read.

Mr. Griesheim said that membership continues to grow mainly through the bookstore.

Chair Pridgen expressed gratitude to the Friends on behalf of the Library Board and asked Mr. Griesheim to convey the appreciation of the Board to the Friends.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyn Anderson provided the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Anderson reported that the library is on budget for revenue and a little under budget on expenses for Period 7. Bobsie Swift moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Gary Griesheim seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Muller asked the Board to mark their calendars for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for the Urban Libraries Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee. She stated that this conference is held every two years and is generally attended by library personnel and local officials. She reported that she has already sent the information to Mike Gaymon at the Chamber of Commerce and to Isaiah Hugley. She stated that as the date gets closer, more details on the conference will be available and she will pass the information on to the Library Board members as well as local officials.

Ms. Muller reminded Board members that The Big Read starts on March 7<sup>th</sup>. She said there are numerous activities planned and would like for Board members to attend as many of the events as possible. Bobsie Swift asked if Debbie McGreggor could send an email reminder to the Board members either the day before or the day of an event. Ms. Muller said this would be done.

Bobsie Swift voiced concern over the parking situation at the North Columbus Branch Library due to meetings being held at that location. Ms. Muller said that the only solution to the parking problem at NCBL would be to enlarge the parking lot which is not an option due to lack of

space. She stated that a trail was completed between NCBL and Britt David Elementary School but this is still not a concrete solution to the problem because the school parking lot is full during the day. She said another alternative would be to ask people to park across the street at the park. However, this is quite a walk for some people. She stated that when there are programs in the evening it is not a problem because people can park in the school parking lot.

Jimmy Elder asked if anything was being proposed in the long term to alleviate this problem. Ms. Muller stated that the proposal to build a new building but that is very long term. She said the system could not build another building at this time because there are not enough funds to operate a new facility. Dr. Star asked what the possibility of installing a drive-thru checkout. Ms. Muller stated she would have to talk with the architects to look at it because she did not think there was enough land.

Dr. Gillett asked about charging for the meeting room space during business hours. Ms. Muller explained that under state law, public libraries are not allowed to charge for meeting room space during regular business hours.

Jimmy Elder asked how many parking spaces would be needed at the North Columbus Public Library. Ms. Muller stated that she could talk with Bob Kidd and find out if the NCBL is in line with the required number of parking spaces.

The Chair asked Mimi Childs and the Operations Committee to review the parking situation at the North Columbus Branch Library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was none.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Lyn Anderson, on behalf of the Finance Committee, brought forth a committee recommendation to approve the Preliminary Draft 2009/2010 Budget. Mr. Anderson reviewed the budget with the Library Board and stated that the following items should be noted.

1. The materials budget was reduced to \$700,000, a reduction of \$100,000
2. The computer replacement funding was reduced by \$100,000
3. Any open positions will remain vacant

Mr. Anderson stated that the management group worked to get the budget to the point where the balance in the reserve would be \$500,000. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

Operations: Mimi Childs, Operations Committee Chair, brought the following committee recommendations to the Board.

1. Operating Policy INF3 Computer/Internet Use – The committee was asked at the last Board meeting to review this policy again to be sure the library staff had the backing and support needed to enforce the policy. Ms. Childs stated that the wording had been revised and the committee felt the new wording would achieve the desired result of providing staff with the authority to enforce the policy. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**
2. Operating Policy CIR9 Fines – The committee recommended the removal of the fee for sending a second overdue notice from the policy. Ms. Muller stated that it is not working and is creating a hardship for the staff. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Regional Board – Chair Pridgen announced that Lisa Goodwin had accepted appointment to the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Regional Board as a representative of the Muscogee County Library Board.

The Chair also stated that she [Kelly Pridgen] would be serving as the Muscogee County Library Board's representative on the Muscogee County Library Foundation.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Pridgen informed the Board that a DVD had been received from the State Library of Wyoming that was developed for trustees. The DVD is broken into eight segments that run 10 – 15 minutes each. The purpose of the DVD is to teach trustees what their role is in the direction of the library. She said anyone interested in viewing the DVD should contact Claudya Muller or Debbie McGreggor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.