

Muscogee County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2009
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending

Kelly Pridgen	Frank Star	Rick Covington
Jimmy Elder	M. A. Dowdell	Mimi Childs
Bobsie Swift	Clark Gillett, Jr.	Gary Griesheim
Barbara Kamensky		

Members Excused

Price Walker, Jr.	Lisa Goodwin	Barbara Mack
Susan Andrews	Pat Hugley-Green	John Wells

Others Attending

Claudya Muller, CVL Director
Lyn Anderson, CVL Chief Financial Officer
Debbie McGreggor, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Christopher Warren, South Columbus Public Library Manager
Bobbi Newman, Digital Branch Manager
Owen Ditchfield, Muscogee County Library Board Candidate

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

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting. Frank Star moved the minutes be approved as presented. Gary Griesheim seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudya Muller introduced Christopher Warren to the Board. Mr. Warren is the new manager of the South Columbus Public Library.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Gary Griesheim reported the Friends have several good months in a row. He stated that membership in the organization is up and has increased by 300% over the past three years with a 75% retention rate.

Mr. Griesheim reminded the Board of the book sale to be held February 12 – 14, 2010. He also reported that Dick McMichael will be presenting the Friends of Libraries PowerPoint presentation to Rotary in January. He encouraged members to visit the Library Bookstore where \$5 and \$10 stocking stuffers are available.

Alice Budge, President of the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries, made a presentation to Kelly Pridgen of a tote bag and gift certificate from the Friends. Ms. Pridgen will leave the Board on December 31, 2009.

BOARD EDUCATION

Bobbi Newman, Digital Branch Manager, made a presentation to the Board members on the various electronic readers available on the market such as the Kindle, Nook and Sony Reader. She reviewed the different readers and informed the Board of the pros and cons of each.

TREASURER'S REPORT

M. A. Dowdell asked Lyn Anderson to present the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Anderson reported that even with the cutbacks in state funding for library materials, the library is still on target in both revenue and expenses. Bobsie Swift asked how much was remaining in the Library's reserve. Mr. Anderson reported the reserve is at \$1.8 million. Frank Star moved the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Bobsie Swift seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Muller stated she wanted to add that Lisa Goodwin, Joe Riddle and herself attended the Urban Libraries Council's Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. She reported it was one of the best conferences of its kind that she had attended in quite some time. She said that Ms. Goodwin and Mr. Riddle would like for Columbus to host the next ULC Partnership Conference. These conferences are held every two years so the next conference would be in 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Recommendations

New Board Member -- The Nominating Committee recommended the approval of Owen Ditchfield as the new board member to replace Kelly Pridgen who will resign from the Board effective December 31, 2009 and that this recommendation be presented to the Muscogee County School Board for approval. Mr. Ditchfield will be fulfilling the unexpired term of Ms. Pridgen. Ms. Pridgen's term expires December 31, 2010. **The recommendation was approved unanimously.**

2010 Slate of Officers – The Nominating Committee recommended the approval of the following 2010 Slate of Officers.

Frank Star	Chair
Jimmy Elder	Vice Chair
Mimi Childs	Secretary
M. A. Dowdell	Treasurer

The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Operations Committee Recommendations

Staffing Needs – The Operations Committee recommended that given the critical nature of the needed positions generated by the increase in customer visits at the Mildred L. Terry Public Library and the libraries in general, that the library administration be allowed to fill these critical positions.

Bobsie Swift asked if there were funds available for these positions. Mr. Anderson reported that due to cutbacks and attrition funding for these positions is available in the library's budget.

Jimmy Elder reminded the Board that the Library Administration stated that they would not ask for any new positions unless it was in the vital interest of the library. He stated that the documentation presented by the Library Administration in requesting approval of filling these critical needs more than meets the criteria.

Frank Star stated he would like the minutes to show that attendance at the Mildred L. Terry Public Library has more than doubled and total use is up 3% system-wide.

The recommendation to approve the creation of two new MLS qualified librarian level positions was approved unanimously.

Naming Opportunity – The Operations Committee recommended the consideration of the grand staircase in the Columbus Public Library as a naming opportunity and that the grand staircase be named in memory of David Rothschild II. The Committee stated the staircase truly epitomizes the beliefs of Mr. Rothschild in that one climbs up to achieve a better life and reaches back down to help others. **The recommendation passed unanimously.**

Discussion was held on how to mark the staircase with either a bronze bust of Mr. Rothschild or a plaque. It was decided a plaque would be more appropriate.

Frank Star asked that Ms. Muller send a letter to Mrs. Rothschild informing her of the Library Board's decision.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Kelly Pridgen expressed thanks to the Library Board for their support during her term. She said she felt Frank Star will provide the leadership the Library Board deserves and will be a good Chairman of the Library Board.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.