

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Regional Board Meeting
January 25, 2024 – 5:30pm
Columbus Public Library

In attendance; Amanda Hollomon, Chair, Darcy Brito, Donovan Granville, Nea Permenter, Seleta Rogers, and Todd Robinson. Staff attending were Alan Harkness, Director of CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries) and Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist.

- I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.
- II. **Approval of October 19, 2023, minutes** – Motion to approve by Darcy Brito, second by Todd Robinson. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Rogers and Robinson.
- III. Public Comment – There was none.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Director Harkness presented the treasurer’s report. Presently revenue is at 50% and expenses are at a little over 39%.
- V. Director’s Report – Director Harkness presented the director’s report. Harkness welcomed Nea Permenter to the CVL Regional board. She is filling in the vacancy left by Jennifer Boling from the Stewart County Library Board as her term ended in December of 2023.

Director Harkness has received the 2023 Georgia Public Library Director of the Year award from the Georgia Public Library Service. The CVL will be holding a celebratory reception on Monday, February 12th, starting at noon. All library board members should be receiving an invitation next week.

The Columbus Children’s Book Festival will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024. This year’s guest authors/ illustrators are Matt de la Peña, Vashti Harrison, and Alyssa Satin Capucitti. Bluey will be making an appearance as well. Bluey is an extremely popular character with all demographics. Director Harkness invited the board to attend.

For Black History Month the CVL, in collaboration with the Columbus Museum will be hosting programs celebrating the life of Winifred Rembert which will include a screening and discussion of *All Me; The Life and Times of Winifred Rembert*, along with several book club programs.

The Winter Reading program is ending next week and planning for the Summer Reading program has begun. This year, instead of distributing the expensive guides to all 30,000 children in the Muscogee County School District for Summer Reading, CVL will hand out a one-page flyer for the children to take home. Friday, January 26, 2024, is National Take your Child to the Library Day. There will be several programs across CVL happening to celebrate.

The state has requested information from the CVL about any grants received from the ALA (American Library Association). There is political pressure for libraries not to be associated with the ALA. The CVL is not an institutional member of the ALA. CVL has received three grants from the ALA in the last 4 years. A COVID relief grant used for The Columbus Children's Book Festival, a grant for the Holocaust Museum exhibit last year, and Parks Memorial Public Library received a financial training grant for rural libraries. The monies for this last grant have not yet been received. This information was forwarded to the state.

The State Library has asked Director Harkness to attend Library Legislative Day in Washington DC. He will be attending several legislative and advocacy meetings with senators and representatives. In the past this was sponsored by the ALA. This year it is not. Last week, Director Harkness participated in an EBSCO think tank in Palm Springs, California, with representatives of public libraries from across the country to discuss important issues.

South Columbus Public Library renovation update: Project is moving forward. To receive the Bardley Turner Grant of 1 million dollars, the rest of the money needed to meet the requirement will be taken out of reserves since fund raising efforts have only raised around \$400,000 of the million-amount needed to receive the Turner Grant match. The project is depleting more reserves than desired, but the reserves will not go into the red. The CVL is planning for the SCPL to not be completed by the end of FY2024. SCPL will be at the present rented site for a few months into FY25.

State health insurance is going to up by \$600 per person per month by the end of 2026. Director Harkness will be writing to the CVL's legislative delegation asking them to pay for that increase for those employees who are state paid. If they cannot get the state to pay for these increases the CVL may have to look into eliminating some full-time positions. Darcy Brito asked if the schools district could consider increasing the budget for the CVL to help pay for the health care payment increase. Director Harkness explained that budget for the CVL is tied to the millage. The only way to increase the budget is either for the millage to go up or for a vote to be held asking residents of Muscogee for permission to raise the millage. This is not an option at this time. The school district has warned CVL that it is thought the value of the millage in 2025 may decrease.

Two Regional Board members, Darcy Brito, and Nea Permenter will be attending the Public Library Association's PLA 2024 Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in April along with several CVL staff. The annual CVL Staff Development Day will be held on Monday, February 19. Director Harkness invited the board to attend if they wish.

VI. Unfinished Business – There was none.

VII. New Business –

i. Approve updated policies

a. Customer Code of Conduct - Consequences

After an in-depth discussion, a motion was made by Chair Amanada Hollomon to approve the updates to this policy as presented with the following change; move “Possession or use of illegal drugs” from a Level Three Violation to a Level Two Violation. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Rogers and Robinson.

ii. Appoint a new vice chair

Chair Amanda Hollomon made a motion to appoint Darcy Brito as Vice Chair. Motion was seconded by Todd Robinson. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Rogers and Robinson.

iii. Appoint a secretary

Chair Amanada Hollomon made a motion to appoint Nea Permenter as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Darcy Brito. Motion was approved unanimously by Hollomon, Brito, Granville, Permenter, Rogers and Robinson.

VIII. Next meeting is scheduled for April 18th, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. Location: Columbus Public Library.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

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