

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board

July 8, 2024 – 11:00 am

Columbus Public Library – Meredith Jarrell Conference Room

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair

Denise Eckley, Treasurer

Judy Barnett

Beth Schwartz

Reggie Lewis

Asante Hilts

SirMichael Jones

Susan Berry

Donovan Granville

Mary Angela Stone McMurphy

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)

Gabriel Lundeen, Deputy Director, CVL

Tracie Price, Finance/HR, CVL

Katie Burnett, CPL Branch Manager, CVL

Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator, CVL

Amber Brookins, Materials/Statistics Coordinator, CVL

Chantea James, Finance & HR Specialist, CVL

Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

II. **Approval of the April 29, 2024 minutes.**

Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2024, meeting. Eckley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jones. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, and Stone McMurphy.

III. Public Comment - There was no public comment.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Tracie Price covered the FY24 Period 11 financials which ended on May 31st, 2023. Price explained that FY24 books are not closed until mid-July. She will present the final FY24 Financial report at the next MCLB meeting. There were no questions.

V. Director's Report

Director Harkness wanted to let the board know that Jamie Burkett had asked to address the board today but was unable to attend due to vehicle issues. She will most likely come and address the board at the next meeting.

Director Harkness invited the board to attend the staff meeting on September 9th, which will be held at the newly renovated South Columbus Branch the day before the soft opening on September 10th. The grand opening will be October 12th. Schwartz pointed out that October 12th is Yom Kippur. Out of respect Director Harkness will move the grand opening to Sunday, October 13th. As details are finalized Director Harkness will provide those details to the Board. The South Columbus Branch is rapidly approaching the final stages of completion.

Thanks to Beth Schwartz, Chair Darcy Brito and former Chair Marion Scott, CVL is working on a series of events and activities for Constitution week. The program guides should be coming out in mid-August with a page and a half dedicated to showcasing the guest speaker and all of the events that have been planned for Constitution week.

Director Harkness presented an internal salary study conducted by the HR & Finance Dept. He went over the previous salary adjustments made in FY22, FY23 and FY24 with board approval. He then presented an updated pay band proposal to the board, of a system wide salary increase to all employee of 3%, with exception for library assistants, who would receive an increase of 4%, bringing their salary from \$12.50 an hour to \$13.00 an hour.

Chair Brito decided to bring the vote for this proposal forward in the agenda and called for a motion to vote on the new proposed pay bands at the end of Director Harkness's presentation. Schwartz made the motion to approve the new pay bands as presented. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, and Stone McMurphy.

VI. Branch Report

Deputy Director Gabriel Lundeen presented the Branch Report. The CVL brought Summer Reading to 18 different sites at MCSD's Summer Learning program across Columbus, reaching thousands of students. The CVL has partnered with United Way to assist with unhoused patrons and provide much needed services to patrons with other pressing needs. Lundeen then presented a slide show of updated pictures on the renovation of the South Columbus Public Library.

VII. Muscogee County Library Foundation

Laura Ann Mann gave the Muscogee County Library Foundation an update. The MCLF has hired a part-time assistant to help grow the MCLF. MCLF is doing a "High Five" fundraiser to support Summer Reading, asking for donations of just \$5.00 (or more if the donator wishes). MCLF is planning on a premier of *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover. The movie is coming out August 9th and MCLF hopes to do the premier on August 8th. On October 17th, the MCLF will be hosting a historical fiction writer. Mann will have more information for the board at the next meeting about this event. In September there will be a series of events called "Novel Nights". People will be hosting literary themed children's events, dinners and teas throughout Columbus. Tickets will be sold at these events and the hosts will donate the sales revenue to the CVL. November 14th will be the next annual Cocktails & Comedy. This year's comedian is Andrew Stanley.

VIII. Unfinished Business – there was none.

IX. New Business

i. Vote on Proposed Bay Bands.

Vote moved to earlier in the meeting. Please see last paragraph in section V.

ii. Approve Final FY25 Budget.

Reggie Lewis made a motion to accept the final budget for FY25 as presented. Denise Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Granville, Hilts, Jones, Lewis, Schwartz, and Stone McMurphy.

X. Chair's Report

Chair did not have any updates.

XI. Next meeting is set for August 12, 2024, at 11 AM. Location: Columbus Public Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

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