

**Columbus Public Library  
Library Board Meeting  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023  
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

Pete Kaland called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present in person: Amanda Wakeman, Pete Kaland, Sue Salter, Deb Haeffner, Trina Reid, Nora Vieau, Jim Schieble, Shirley Berkley, Merry Anderson. Absent: Dana Pike

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Nora moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

**Disposition of Minutes:** Nora moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** CDAR 1 renews 8/31/23 at 4.35%. SCLS Foundation account continues to reflect market volatility and is up \$10,515.48. Deb moved and Nora seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Bills of \$6,934.40 presented. The Director approves bills up to \$1,000 the Board President then approves over this amount. Per query, should another board member i.e., vice president also review? After brief discussion, no further action. Amanda explained that the City is updating inputting process and also allowing CPL on city server because currently library staff has to go to City Hall to input data. Jim moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:** Many patrons coming to the library for the first time to participate in Summer Reading Program. Helen and Amanda continue to attend the monthly market at Savanna Oaks to sign people up for library cards.

Currently 309 people are signed up for Summer Reading Program. Foam and More with Absolute Science was a hit. On 6/10 Susan conducted storytime at Astico Park as part of the Friends of Dodge County Parks summer series. Adult book clubs continue along with cancer and Alzheimer's support groups.

Jim suggested using some funds from the CPL bank accounts for worthwhile special programs that are not in the budget. Members encouraged to bring ideas to the Board.

Roofing company reports the roof is complete and broken window repaired by Prairie Glass; roofing company will subtract this cost from final bill. The solar charging pole is installed and advertised to community with positive response. We may need to get some additional cords. Canales Flooring repaired carpet under leaking radiator.

Strategic Planning Committee met to review survey results. See Committee Reports. All SCLS Directors meeting 7/20. CPL will host Columbia County Library Board meeting and Columbia County Directors meeting 7/21. Staff continues to attend Rotary and Kiwanis meetings.

Goals: Goal #2—Maintain library buildings to they remain structurally sound and safe for staff and patrons. Amanda looking at ADA compliance issues; checking on a grant to lower front checkout desk (to accommodate wheelchairs) and auto doors on restrooms.

**President's Report:** We welcomed Shirley Berkley to the Board

**Friends of the Library:** None

**Literacy Council Report:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

Personnel Committee: Did not meet.

Strategic Planning Committee: Amanda presented the results of the survey which were highly positive. We received 98 responses of which 90.8% were cardholders. The majority of respondents-69.4%-reside in Columbus. Nearly all said the library was important to them. Positive comments included helpful staff, access to LinkCat services, kids' programs and book groups. Some areas for improvement include extended hours, larger facility/more space, groups for "people who work," homework help, computer classes for older patrons/educational classes.

Building and Grounds Committee: Major problems resolved

**Trustee Training:** Pete presented a history of the library.

Columbus was founded because of water power and the railroad. The population was largely German Lutheran, Irish Catholic, Methodists, Scandinavians and Welsh Presbyterians. Congregationalists came from the east and became part of the merchant class.

In January 1877, a group met at City Hall to form a library. It's 54 volumes were donated by Governor Lewis and housed above Sharrow Drugs, now Forward Pharmacy. The Chadbourne library fund donated \$550 for some of the first books. By 1880 the library had 75 members each paying \$75 with 1,000 volumes in circulation.

In 1901 the first free library was in City Hall in what is now the clerk and treasurer's office. The staff was a librarian and an assistant.

Seventeen years prior to receiving a \$10,000 Carnegie grant, the Mayor and City Council were engaged in lengthy negotiations the primary issue being the \$1,000 in annual taxes need to support the library. In 1910 the City voted to approve the library. Mrs. George Griswald, owned what is today the Zeidler Funeral and the lots along Dickason Blvd. She agreed to sell the lots as long as the property was used for a library and the trees remained. Finally, in 1912 the building was completed. It was built in the Prairie style to look like a house. About 2,000 books, magazines, and newspapers were available for patrons.

Women were a guiding force in creating a library. In 1909 the Women's Civic Club started a kindergarten and raised money through cookbook and rummage sales. The Women's Club furnished the library basement as their meeting room.

About 50 years ago the Columbus Pre-School was held in the basement which later became a teen center. In 1990 the library was remodeled to include an elevator.

**Unfinished Business:**

Crosswalk Safety: Per Trina, City Council representative, this issue is on hold until key city positions are filled.

**New Business:**

Election of Officers: As all current officers indicated willingness to continue service, Sue moved and Shirley seconded a motion to approve the following current officers:

President-Pete Kaland  
Vice President-Nora Vieau  
Secretary-Merry Anderson  
Financial Secretary-Jim Schieble

Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Nora moved and Jim seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m..

Next scheduled board meeting August 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted.

Merry Anderson, Secretary