

Muscogee County Library Board
Thursday, January 25, 2007
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending:

Jay Alexander	Meridith Jarrell	Tom Wade, Jr.
Alice Budge	David Rothschild II	Price Walker, Jr.
Patricia Hugley-Green	Murray Solomon	Helene Watson
Linda Hadley	Bobsie Swift	John Wells
Linda Harper	Sherrod Taylor	Billy Winn

Members Excused:

Mimi Childs	John Phillips
Jimmy Elder	Kelly Pridgen
Cindy Garrard	Trenna Trice
Lisa Goodwin	

Others Attending:

Chris Schuster, President, Columbus Regional Tennis Association (CORTA)
Judy Pearce, Executive Director, Columbus Regional Tennis Association (CORTA)
Nadine Moore, Carver Heights and Wynnton Area Neighborhood Association (CHAWANA)
Lyn Anderson, CVRLS Finance Manager
Donna Osborne, CVRLS Deputy Director
Wanda Edwards, CVRLS Community Relations Librarian
Claudya Muller, CVRLS Director
Brooke Mann, CVRLS Volunteer Coordinator
Patty Chamberlain, CVRLS Programming Manager
Beverly Grant, Quitman County Library
Harry Franklin, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Gary Wortley, Interim CPL Manager
Bob Myers, CVRLS Information Technology Manager
Christie Rudd, CVRLS Administrative Assistant, Community Relations
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, City Council, District #1
Nolan Murrah, Education Park Coalition
Chris Wightman, Education Park Coalition
Josh McKoon, Education Park Coalition
Newt Aaron, Newton Aaron & Associates
Dusty Nix, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Wayne D. Baker, Spirit Filled Ministries
T.J. Melvin, Columbus Technical College
Billy Kendall, MCSD
Cathy Williams, MCSD

Gloria B. Strode, PTWAN
Tollie Strode
Connie McCoy
Michael Herndon
William Wade

Chair Bobsie Swift called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The chair requested that the agenda for the meeting be corrected to note the following changes:

Item V: change to Board Organization

Item VI: change to Board Education

Item VII: change to Friends of Library

It was moved by Murray Solomon and seconded by John Wells that agenda be amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Meridith Jarrell noted that there were attachments referred to in the previous meeting minutes but were not attached to minutes in the agenda package. She stated that it was the remarks from Bobsie Swift and the document referred to by Murray Solomon. Meridith wanted to be sure that the attachments were filed with the record copy. Claudya stated that the attachments are with the records and that she would forward a copy to anyone needing one. Murray Solomon moved to approve the minutes as distributed Meridith Jarrell seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair recognized Chris Schuster, President of the Columbus Regional Tennis Association (CORTA). Mr. Schuster gave an overview of the local tennis program. He provided information about the growth of tennis in the community and the need for more practice courts for adults and children. He distributed a handout to supplement the proposal that was presented at the last library board meeting. He informed the board that CORTA would be happy to meet with the board to discuss the proposal. He thanked the board for their time.

The Chair recognized Chris Wightman of the Education Park Coalition. He gave an overview of the library project. He reminded the board that the initial plan called for a park and that the library project is still incomplete.

Josh McKoon of the Education Park Coalition was recognized. He gave some legalities related to the library project property and the money allocated to it

Ms. Nadine Moore of the Carver Heights and Wynnton Neighborhood Association (CHAWANA) was recognized. She invited the board to visit the area at any time of the day to see that there is activity going on in the area. She stated that the term “revitalization” is incorrect because the area is not dead. She stated that there is already community development going on. She stated that the residents voted for the one-cent sales tax for the park and not for the building of residences. She feels the library should be a place of tranquility in the middle of the city. She is urging the board to recommend a park and not more people in the area.

City Councilman Jerry “Pops” Barnes was recognized. He informed the board that he was here to support them. He presented a map of midtown Columbus and stated that he has visited all the homes and spoken with the residents. He told the board that there was overwhelming support for the park. He told the board of his experience as a youth in a large city project area with eight high-rises in a one-block area. He was so glad to know that there was a park nearby to escape. He thinks that a park would be a blessing to the children in the area and he urges the board to build a park.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Bobsie Swift gave out perfect attendance awards. Staff members recognized were:

July – December

Lyn Anderson
Tracy Knight
Connie McCoy
Lorraine Thompson
William Wade
Eric Willis

January - December

Dancia Baernkopf
Patty Chamberlain
Beverly Grant
Stephen Farris
Kimberly Scott

BOARD ORGANIZATION

The Chair informed the board that there is a sign-up sheet being sent around to the board members so that they can volunteer for board committees.

The Chair notified the board that for the next couple of months the agenda and minutes would be distributed electronically instead of mailed in an effort to save time and money. There are a few members that do not have email. The packet will be sent to them via regular mail. There were a members with reservations about the new system for distributing the agenda and committee meeting minutes. The chair stated that we would try it for two months. If it poses a problem, then those members wanting hard copies will receive them in the future.

The Chair wanted to start out the new year by reminding the board members of their duty to serve the public as a board member. She read from the Georgia Public Library Trustee Manual. It stated that serving on the public library board of trustees is holding a sacred trust. The community is depending on the board to assure that the library is accessible to everyone, offers free and appropriate library services, plans for the future and is fiscally responsible and accountable. The motivation for board service should be the desire to contribute to the development and continuation of an excellent program of library service.

BOARD EDUCATION

Claudya Muller told the board that Murray Solomon requested during an Operations Committee meeting, that we have a presentation from the various departments so that the board members better understand the workings of the library. She stated that for this first meeting it would be just an overview of all of the departments followed by the schedule for the remainder of the year.

Claudya informed the board the reorganization is moving forward. The Chief Operations Officer position will be implemented in February. The Chief of Public Services position still needs more work and will be implemented later in the year. Each one of the departments will make a 10-minute presentation. The schedule will be as follow:

February	Tech Services (how material is received, circulated and reported)
March	Reference Department (Online tools and Genealogy)
April	Information Technology
May	CLASS
June	Vacation Reading Program
July	Public Relations & Marketing
August	Volunteer Program
September	Finance
October	Bookmobile/Outreach Services
November	9 Branch Managers

Alice Budge requested that an organizational chart be sent with the minutes when they are sent out. Claudya stated it would be attached.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Alice Budge reported that last month the Friends voted to provide funding for seasonal decorations for all of the libraries. A reception for the artist Florence Neal will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2007. In February the Friends will provide \$2,100 for the CVRLS In-Service day. Sharon Draper, author of "Copper Sun" who was sponsored by Friends in the fall has won the Corretta Scott King Award from the ALA. Two members of the Friends executive committee and Wanda Edwards attended a marketing seminar at Columbus Tech on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. They went to find out ways to promote the library store.

Bobsie Swift took a moment to recognize Cathy Williams from the Muscogee County School Board. She thanked her for attending the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Murray Solomon gave the report. He went over the numbers from period 6 and gave the revenues and stated that we are right on budget on the revenues side. Alice Budge noticed that board and library travel was low. Claudya stated that not a lot travel occurs during the first half of the fiscal year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Claudia's report was attached the agenda. She reported that she had attended the American Library Association's conference this past weekend. She toured the main library in Seattle, WA. She was very impressed with the design and functionality of the building. She stated that they have 400 computers for the public and they were all in use at 3:00 on Saturday afternoon. She attended the Urban Assets Strategy Group meeting. She was reminded how well our situation is compared to other cities. She informed the board that they have an opportunity to go to ALA in the summer and meet with peers. She encouraged them to do so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee Recommendation: Murray Solomon made a motion for funds for from the reserve fund to be used for Mildred Terry Library design work. Seconded by David Rothschild. Mr. Rothschild commented that the funds should come from the reserve fund and be replaced when the SPLOST is released. Claudia Muller told the board that she would make that request when she meets with the school board on February 12. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Claudia Muller informed the board that the library has received a grant from the Synovus Foundation in the amount of \$200,000 payable over the next two years and she has sent a message to Calvin Smyre asking for a clarification of use of the funds. She wants to know if this grant is for the MLT expansion.

Nominating Committee: Alice Budge made the report for the new positions on the board. Bobsie Swift will serve as Board Chair; Meridith Jarrell, Immediate Past Chair; Mimi Childs, Vice Chair; Murray Solomon, Treasurer; and Dr. Price Walker, Secretary.

Bobsie Swift informed the board that Billy Winn and Sherrod Taylor had resigned from the board. She thanked them for their service and wished them the best of luck in the future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none discussed

Bobsie Swift told the board that there is money in the budget to attend the ALA Conference June 21-22. Anyone wanting to attend should let her know as soon as possible.

The chair informed the board that Meridith Jarrell will be the new chair of the nominating committee. Alice Budge, Cindy Garrard, Murray Solomon and Tom Wade will be on the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes by: Vivian's Virtual Secretary