

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

Call to Order: Nora Vieau called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Nora Vieau, Amanda Wakeman, Sue Salter, Jim Schieble, Trina Reid, Deb Haeffner, Shirley Berkley, Dana Pike, Merry Anderson

Absent: Pete Kaland

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

Approval of the Agenda: Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes October 21, 2025: With a date correction, Sue moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the October Minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: CDAR 2 renewed 10/16/25 at 4.35 %, same as previous month. SCLS account continues to increase, up \$ 5,368.73 from previous month. CPL received a \$1,000 gift from Stephen Baus. Merry moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$8,361.12 submitted. Deb moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: Budget on track with 87.75 % of budget spent.

Library Director's Report:

On November 23 the South Central Library System held its annual Cornerstone event at the Fireman's Park Pavilion. CPL President Pete Kaland was honored for his service to the library and his long commitment and leadership to the CPL's success and growth.

Community Outreach:

10/29- Hosted Valerie Biel book release celebrating a local author.

10/31-Participated in community Trick or Treat welcoming dozens of families.

12/10- Hosting warm-up ornament workshop before the Holiday Train.

Youth Services:

10-18-The Wri-Mo MOJO Creative Writing Workshop began and will meet monthly as participants develop their projects.

Afternoon clubs continue to be popular providing creative, social activities.

Art from the Heart

Monthly Crafternoon

Monthly Stitching Stars
Bimonthly Chess Club
Monthly Lego Club
Monthly Book Dragons Creative Writing Lab
Weekly Homeschool Program

Family Fun Day featuring Candy Sushi was well-attended with a hands-on activity.

Adult Services:

10-22-Full house of participants enjoyed candle making.

10/28-New release movie "The Lost Bus."

11/11-New release movie "The Baltimoreans."

Attendance continues to be strong reflecting patron desire for in-person, hands-on programming.

Looking Ahead:

11/19-Non-fiction book discussion: *Normal Women*

11/20-Book & Beer with Jeanee Sacken

11/20-Third Thursday Book Club: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*

11/26-Adult Craft Night: Paper Flower Shadow Box

11/27-28-Closed for Thanksgiving

12/2-Hooked on Books & Yarn

12/3-Storytime at Home Again Assisted Living

12/4-Library After Hours Book Club: *The Christmas Tree Farm*

12/5-Shower-oke with Robin Hendrickson

12/11-Closed from 11:00-1:00 for City of Columbus Christmas Party

12/11-Books & Beer with Tracey S. Phillips

12/15-Romantasy Book Club: *Rose in Chains*

Meetings:

We completed our first webinar in the transition to the new ILS system with several more to come. Heather and Kristen will attend hands-on training.

Amanda will attend the All Directors Meeting on November 20 at SCLS headquarters to discuss the SCLS strategic plan along with training on Working With Your Municipality.

Amanda also will attend Columbia County Director meeting at Portage Public Library.

Facilities:

Furnace in the Annex failed to turn on. TAS responded and resolved the problem.

Downstairs water fountain stream was hitting the wall. Wright Plumbing adjusted the fountain.

Statistics: Visits and Items Borrowed increased 4.7% and 1.5% respectively.

Library Director's Goals:

As noted in Facilities report, Annex furnace and downstairs water fountain issues resolved with TAS and Wright Plumbing responding.

Updated the Employee Handbook Library Amendment with the Personnel Committee.

Weeded the YA section. Weeding will now be done on a schedule so it is not as big a job and staff can better analyze what we need when ordering new items.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: None

Friends of the Library: Major changes in the FOL with President's resignation. Sue Salter and Shirley Berkley also resigned their memberships. Amanda will continue to report.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the City of Columbus Employee Handbook addendum. With one edit motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committee on Development met with several members from initial meeting to look at plans and discuss. Positive reaction to plans with discuss mostly about timing and cost as would be expected. Discussions will resume after the holidays.

Trustee Training: Deb Haeffner – Inclusivity in Your Library

Diversity-inclusion of different types e.g. races, cultures

Equity-just and fair inclusion into society in which all can participate and reach their full potential

Inclusion-ability to belong and contribute while being true to oneself

Race-a socially constructed concept that places individuals into categories based on appearances that are ascribed with cultural characteristics

Ethnicity-social groups that have a common national or cultural tradition

Organizing Around Inclusivity

2017-Inclusive Services Statement

- 1 representative from each of the 16 public library systems
- Way to comply with Section 43 of WI State Statute
- Holistic all-encompassing statement

2018-DPI's Inclusive Services Institute

2019-Inclusive Services Assessment & Guide for WI Public Libraries

The Inclusive Services Assessment is:

- Designed for WI public Library Directors, Library Staff, Library Boards of Trustees (you!)
- A resource to help implement the Inclusive Services Statement
- Intentionally created to compliment the 2018 WI Public Library Standards
- Comprehensive and long, but can be highly individualized

Notes on Section 43 OF WI State Statute

Written in WI law (43.24(2)(k) that libraries be accessible to people with “special needs”
Language that suggests an othering of populations and individuals
Special needs” → Inclusive Services
Cultural shifts, language changes over time

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Merry moved and Jim seconded a motion to increase the annual employee gift by \$20 not to exceed a total of \$700.00. Employee recognition gift taken from CPL checking account. Motion carried.

Amanda shared the letter from the Carnegie Corporation of New York which describes the \$10,000 gift to all Carnegie Libraries including CPL. The gift is part of a special initiative to recognize those libraries still in operation.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting – December 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary