

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

Call to Order: Pete Kaland called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Pete Kaland, Amanda Wakeman, Jim Schieble, Deb Haeffner, Trina Reid, Dana Pike, Shirley Berkley, Merry Anderson

Absent: Sue Salter, Nora Vieau

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

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

Approval of Minutes April 21, 2026: Jim moved and Shirley seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: The market continues to fluctuate but the fund realized a gain. CDAR rates continue to fall. CDAR 1 renewed 5/28/26 at 3.98% while CDAR 2 will renew on 7/16/26 at 3.72%. Dana moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$22,153.08 submitted which include \$7,595.00 for the self-checkout system paid for with the Carnegie grant and \$7,308.96 for a 50% downpayment on the new flooring. Merry moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

As noted above, the new self-checkout was installed. A small plaque was ordered to acknowledge the Carnegie grant. Also, as noted above, the new flooring will probably be installed in August after the summer reading program ends.

Community Outreach:

Families made bird feeders and windchimes at the Columbus Arbor Day event in the Pavilion.

CPL also was invited to participate in Pride in the Park on June 20 and Family Night for the 4th of July on June 30.

Youth Services:

The Home School Group meets each Monday with 5-15 participants. The past month's highlight was dissecting owl pellets.

Teens gathered for a Cinco de Mayo party on May 4.

The Program Room continues to be busy Tuesday and Wednesday mornings for Storytime and Music & Motion.

The April 23 after school activity was open Art Studio with 23 attending.

Adult Services:

For the month of May the Wisconsin Historical Society presented a traveling exhibit on John Muir.

Adult Craft Night featured spray painting book edges. This is a popular trend in many romance and fantasy books.

The Soft Pants Society, a monthly discussion group for stay-at-home caregivers, will continue to meet in the Annex.

April 30-Author Andrea Thalasin discussed her book *The Loneliness of Horses*.

There was an overwhelmingly "yes" response to a survey about starting a Mahjong group. The group will meet Friday mornings.

Coming Up:

Book clubs continue to thrive.

May 21-3rd Thursday Book Club *Wild Dark Shore*

May 28-Books & Beer with author Peggy Jocque Williams

June 4-After Hours Book Club *We Are All Guilty Here*

June 15-Romantasy Book Club *Wild Reverence*

April 20-Romantasy Book Club *Assistant to the Villain*

May 22-Making Mocktails

May 26-Safari Author Talk: Images of South Africa with Jeanee Sacken

May 30-Antique Appraisals with Mark Moran

June 3-Celebration for Peter Kaland, Advocate of the Year

June 11-Badger Talk: Introduction to AI and American National Security

June 17-Storytime At the Farm at Royal Guernsey Creamery

Meetings:

May 15-Columbia County Board and Directors meeting at Kilbourn Public Library, Wisconsin Dells.

May 21-All Directors meeting at Kilbourn Public Library, Wisconsin Dells.

Facilities:

See flooring update above.

Notes about statistics. We installed a new door counter at the main entrance. It is less sensitive than the previous counter so while the numbers may be lower they may be more accurate. April totals were affected by those days when no counter was in place. Also, with new ILS we were not able to get circulation and patrons added reports for April.

Library Director's Goals:

Board will review quarterly and accept or take action.

For May:

Goal 1. Helen attending “Play Make Learn” Conference in June. Kristen attended Adult Library Services Program Swap at Oregon Public Library. All staff will participate in monthly online training through NeoGov via City of Columbus. May’s course titles “A Guild to Healthy Communication.”

Goal 2. Installed new self-checkout in children’s area.

Goal 3. Catherine creating a Mahjong group

Goal 4. Added TV screen upstairs for announcements and sharing statistics.

Goal 5. Sorted and renamed all policies using date they were last updated. Attended Director’s Roundtable to discuss User Policies which CPL updated last year.

President’s Report: None

Literacy Council Report: None

Friends of the Library: Received \$1,000 from United For Libraries which will be used for shelving in the Book Store. The Friends also will provide funding for 12 programs: 6 adult and 6 children’s programs.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

See Bills and Director’s Report above.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting—June 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary

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