

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

Call to Order: Pete Kaland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

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 September 16, 2025: With a date correction, Shirley moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the June 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 \$ 8,317.28 from previous month. Dana moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$5,04.09 submitted. Jim moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: Budget on track with 77.7 % of budget spent.

Library Director's Report:

CPL received a \$500 per month donation for youth services programming. We signed up 42 new patrons in September with several hundred patrons updating their information and registering for a raffle prize.

Community Outreach:

9/20-Helen led storytime at Sadie's Bee Orchard in Fall River.

9/27-Catherine and Helen attended Art & Author Fair.

10/31-CPL open from 4-7 p.m. for Community Trick or Treat

Youth Services:

9/18-Art from the Heart Club started and will meet each month for crafting and to engage in community service projects.

10/7-Nathan Barnes from the Columbus Fire Dept. joined us for Fire Safety Week. Regular children's programs have started again and include:

Weekly Storytime on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Monthly Music & Motion

Monthly Crafternoon

Monthly Stitching Stars

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

The September teen afternoon featured pumpkin decorating. Patrons invited to vote on their favorite.

Adult Services:

9/18-David Rogers classical guitar performance cancelled due to gas leak. See Facilities.

10/9-Cookbook Club met with "Autumn Harvest" theme. They will meet quarterly.

10/17-Mystery authors Peggy Joque and Mary Joy Johnson

Monthly programs are growing in attendance.

Looking Ahead:

10/22-Adult Craft Night will make candles.

10/28-Afternoon screening of movie "The Lost Bus"

10/29 Book launch party for Valerie Biel

10/30-Kick-off for Wri-Mo MOJO Creative Writing Month with monthly writing workshops.

10/30-Books & Beer will discuss "I Know What You Did" by Cayce Osborne

11/4-Hooked on Books and Yarn

11/6-After Hours Book Club will discuss "The Power" by Naomi Alderman

11/13-Trivia Party

11/14-Hosting a Murder Mystery at the Annex

11/17-Romantasy Book Club will discuss "Immortal" by Sue Lynn Tan

11/20-Third Thursday Book Club will discuss "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molner

Meetings:

The Columbia County Finance Committee increased funding for libraries from 73% reimbursement to 76% reimbursement.

Amanda attended Mental Health First on 9/23 and 9/30 presented by Prairie Ridge Health at Faith Lutheran Church.

On October 7 Amanda presented a preliminary 2026 budget to the Columbus City Council.

Facilities:

On 9/18 the company installing fiber lines to the library for the new phones hit the gas line on the library lawn. The library was evacuated and closed early. Columbus Fire Dept. did an excellent job of keeping everyone safe and communicating during the incident.

A new bench was installed in front of the library purchased in memory of Diane Sennhenn and James Myers.

Statistics: Visits and Items Borrowed increased 3.5% and 2.2% respectively.

Library Director's Goals:

As noted above, Amanda presented the CPL budget to the Columbus City Council.

The bathroom grout was cleaned and sealed. Amanda worked with TAS to solve a water issue in the Annex basement. She worked with the Social Media Policy team to develop a policy for the library. CPL held a retirement party for Sue Mathwich. The new winter reading program theme will be Winter is Bearable with Books.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: Merry Anderson will resign her volunteer position as coordinator and will help recruit a new coordinator to continue the Lit Council mission.

Friends of the Library: FOL will assess the value of continuing to participate in the Wine Walk. Seasonal timing may be an issue. For National Friends of the Library Week Culvers is hosting a fundraiser.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc Committee on Development invited several community members to discuss possible library addition.

Personnel Committee met to discuss City of Columbus Handbook addendum.

Ad Hoc Social Media Policy Committee reviewed media policy. Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the policy. Motion carried.

Trustee Training: Sue Salter presented "Bylaws-Organizing the Board for Effective Action."

Bylaws: 1. Provide "Structural Framework" Board uses to govern themselves and are connected to responsibilities and ethics. 2. Essential for making sure Board is effective, fair, trusted.

Function of Bylaws: 1. Provide structure. 2. Ensure fairness. 3. Support legal and financial responsibility. 4. Clarify roles and responsibilities. 5. Provide guide through change and conflict. 6. Keep "CPL Mission" the priority.

Sue also recommended reviewing the bylaws every year before or after the annual meeting.

Unfinished Business:

2026 Library Budget: As noted above, Amanda presented to the City Council.

New Business:

Pursuant to a request to rent the Annex garage for \$50 per month, Amanda will get additional information on the prospective tenant and also explain that this rental is subject to the same lease provisions as the current upstairs tenants. Nora moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve this action. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting—November 18, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary