

**Columbus Public Library  
Library Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

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

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

**Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:**

**Approval of the Agenda for March 18, 2025:** Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes April 18, 2025:** Jim moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the April 2025 Minutes. Motion carried.

**Reports**

**Financial Secretary's Report:** CDAR2 renews 5/29/25 at 4.35%, down .40 from April. SCLS Foundation account flat. Dana moved and Shirley seconded a motion to approve Financial Secretary report. Motion carried.

**Bills:** Bills of \$13,834.89 submitted which includes final bill for bathroom remodeling. Deb moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Budget Comparison:** 35.76% of budget spent at end of first third of year.

**Library Director's Report:**

Summer Library program runs June 9 through August 10 with incentives for kids, teens and adults. CPL partnering with Columbus Recreation Department to have 9 different family performers. Friends of the Library has graciously funded 6 of the performers that will be at the Library. CPL also hosting summer camp on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez visited CPL on May 14 and spent time touring the library and talking to staff, board members, Friends of the Library, patrons and Shannon Schultz, SCLS Director. Our district State Representative Maureen McCarville also attended.

All library staff attended Dementia Live on April 29 put on by the ADRCs of Columbia and Dodge counties. This hands-on program taught staff how to work with people they may encounter who have dementia along with tips on how to make our library more dementia friendly.

Youth Programs:

Book Dragons Writing Lab continues to meet with good turnout.

Kane Browkowski from Columbus Rec was our special Arbor Day guest reader for April 29 & 30 storytimes.

Family Pizza and Board Game Night more popular than ever with 30 people attending in May

School and Daycare visits wrapping up in May and will be off for the summer.

Adult Programs:

April 22 we welcomed George Hesselberg to speak about his book *Dead Lines*.

Adult craft night with Kristen well attended in April and full for May with a waiting list.

Upcoming Programs:

After Hours Book Club met in May in 161 Building with 25 people and space to spread out.

Catherine hosted Crochet Dog Blanket on May 10. Blankets donated to Columbia County Humane Society.

May 13 we hosted a program on Unlocking the Secrets of Antarctic Meteorology.

We collaborated with Valerie Biel to host Books & Beer author talk on May 15 which was held at Cercis in the past. Attendees like the quieter atmosphere of the Annex so the June meeting will be there as well as perhaps in the future.

Upcoming Programs:

Romantasy Book Club meeting one Monday per month beginning June 9 in the Annex.

We will welcome several guest readers from the City of Columbus for storytimes including: City Clerk Susan Caine, City Treasurer Krystal Larson, Emergency Management Director Bill Breunig, Lineman Jake Boness from Columbus Utilities, Recreation Director Amy Jo Meyers and Fire Chief Scott Hazeltine.

Meetings:

Amanda attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) conference in Oshkosh April 30-May 2 and served on a panel about forming a Friends group and becoming a 501(c) (3).

At the All Directors meeting on May 15 at Oregon Public Library, Directors voted to move from BiblioVation to SirsiDynix Symphony with the switch over scheduled for May 2026.

Columbia County Directors and Board met May 16 to discuss new strategic plan for county libraries.

Building and Grounds:

Vacant Annex studio rented.

Solar powered flashing crosswalk installed across James Street between City Hall and Library seems to be working.

The City got new phones which were not compatible with the SCLS network. CPL still using cell phones until new internet line can be installed which is projected to cost an unbudgeted \$10,000.

Library Stats: Visits up 4.5%; Community Use of Rooms up 11%. Wireless printing and faxing up 16%; Items borrowed up 6.9%. Public Wi-Fi and Public Computer Use down 12% and 9.3% respectively; Patrons added down 20%.

**Library Director's Goals:**

See Building and Grounds above.

See Dementia Live training above.

Working with City Administrator, Rec Department and Community Center to reimagine Columbus Commotion publication to keep community informed and reduce waste.

Bathroom remodeling complete and well-received by families.

Continuing to weed Adult Fiction, our most popular section, to maintain availability of current titles.

Catherine using Project Outcome to get feedback on paid speaker events. Working to increase attendance.

**President's Report:** None

**Literacy Council Report:** Per Board approval, \$3,000 transferred from checking account to higher earning CD.

**Friends of the Library:** Attracting new members

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:** None

**Trustee Training:** Recruiting and Engaging Friends and Trustees Under Age 40

Shirley presented research-based information that concluded: "Millennials are more likely to have visited the library recently. However, most Friends and Trustee boards do not have even a single Millennial member."

Research done in 41 states shows that 82% of respondents said a diverse board is important but 50% said there was not a millennial or younger on their board. There is a misconception that younger generations are self-serving but really they want to be involved in their communities and to make a difference. Their children use the library and they love books and reading.

They do not participate because most meetings/events are held during work hours, meetings may be inefficient/unnecessary, no one told them about the opportunity, or group members not welcoming to people outside their age group. They do not stay because of lack of diversity, feel their voices not heard or they do not see where they fit.

How can younger generations be recruited?

Align recruitment with the board's strategic plan

Equip existing board members with key points e.g. an elevator speech

Organize a teen advisory council

Organize a task force on community issues

Consider board term lengths and limits

Recruit for roles, not ages

Ask early and often

Invite people personally

**Welcome and respect fresh perspectives**

Brag, brag brag—about the library, advocacy groups, staff, programming and who benefits.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Adjourn:** Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting—June 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merry Anderson, Secretary