

**Columbus Public Library  
Library Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
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, Jim Schieble, Deb Haeffner, Sue Salter, Trina Reid, Dana Pike, Shirley Berkley, Merry Anderson

**Absent:** Nora Vieau

**Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:** We welcomed Kasey DeWitt, new Columbus Literacy Council coordinator.

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

**Approval of Minutes March 17, 2026:** Jim moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the March Minutes with a spelling correction. Motion carried.

**Reports**

**Financial Secretary's Report:** CDAR 1 matures on 5/28/26 at 3.98%; CDAR 2 renews 7/16/26 at 3.72% as rates continue to decline. SCLS Foundation account also declined by \$15,858.78. CPL received an anonymous donation for children's programming as noted in the Director's Report. Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

**Bills:** Bills of \$5,011.29 submitted. Dana moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Budget Comparison:** No report available.

**Library Director's Report:**

April 19-25 was National Library Week. The April 12-15 transition to a new computer system went smoothly as staff was able to check out patrons via offline circulation. Susan, Deb, Amy and Angelica were able to get everything checked in quickly and efficiently.

The Columbia County Board chose Pete Kaland as the 2026 Library Advocate of the Year. We will honor him on Wednesday, June 3, with a celebration on the CPL lawn. Mark Croft will perform and the community is invited for a pie social.

As noted, CPL received an anonymous gift for ongoing children's programming.

The seed library, coordinated by Harvey Hoon, continues to be popular.

Community Outreach:

CPL will again participate in Arbor Day on April 25 at the Pavilion. Children can make a bird feeder or wind chime.

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

#### Youth Services:

Book Dragons continues to meet monthly to work on their writing projects. Valerie Biel joined them for a Creative Writing Workshop.

For Spring Break the week of April 5, CPL offered programs including movies, games, crafts and bingo.

#### Adult Services:

March 21-Huma Siddiqui demonstrated dishes featuring okra and Pakistani spices.

March 24-Valerie Biel worked with a small group of aspiring authors.

April 9-CPL hosted a luncheon and virtual author visit for a Libby Reads event.

#### Coming Up:

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

April 20-Art From the Heart Club

April 22-Adult Craft Night

April 22-Soft Pants Society Meeting

April 23-Tween Creative Writing Workshop

April 23-Books & Beer with Donna Rewolinski

April 23-Adult Trivia Night

April 30-Author Talk: Andrea Thalasinis

May 4-Teen Afternoon: Cinco de Mayo Party

May 7-Library After Hours Book Club *My Friends*

May 11-Art From the Heart Club

May 14-Teen and Adult Puzzle Competition

#### Ongoing Programs:

Mondays-Homeschool Program

Tuesdays/Wednesdays-Preschool Storytime and Music and Motion

#### Meetings:

Amanda attended the PLA Conference in Minnesota virtually due to illness.

#### Facilities:

A windowpane fell out the Annex attic window which Devon from DPW fixed with plexiglass. The library roof leaked after the March snowstorm. Great Lakes Roofing discovered a leaking turbine vent which they reinstalled with no further problems.

**Library Director's Goals:** See New Business

**President's Report:** None

**Literacy Council Report:** Merry introduced Kasey DeWitt, the new CLC coordinator. She retired from Edgewood University where she also earned her undergrad and graduate degrees. She will be attending tutor training and meeting with our representatives at Wisconsin Literacy.

**Friends of the Library:** The Historical Society removed some shelves.

**Correspondence:** As noted above, the Columbia County Board voted Pete Kaland Advocate of the Year for 2026.

**Committee Reports:**

Ad Hoc Flooring Committee: The style was finalized with the color to be determined and a final quote to come.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Library Director's Goals for 2026-Amanda presented her goals based on the evaluation document. Board discussed and approved continuing the monthly progress report to the Board. Merry moved and Jim seconded a motion to accept the 2026 Director's Goals. 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 – May 19, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merry Anderson, Secretary

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