

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 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, Merry Anderson
Absent: Nora Vieau, Shirley Berkley

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input: We welcomed Mayor Joe Hammer.

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

Approval of Minutes February 20, 2026: Pete moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the February Minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: CDAR 1 matures on 5/28/26 at 3.98%. Rates continue to decline. CPL received a \$400 gift in memory of Pat Showers. Dana moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$15,164.59 submitted which include \$8,832.00 to SCLS for Delivery Fee and Digital Media Pool Fee. Jim moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

Staff is in the process of training on the new SCLS system. The current system will be down from April 12-15 with patrons still able to check out materials. However, we will not be able to make changes or check anything in. Patrons will not have access to their accounts. The new system will go live on April 16.

The seed library will be back coordinated by volunteer Harvey Hoon.

Community Outreach:

Helen participated in Literacy Night at Columbus Elementary School on March 4.
CPL will participate in Arbor Day at the Pavilion on April 25.

Youth Services:

Family Pizza and Board Game Night had a crowd on February 20. Thanks to a generous donation to our youth programs, we can bring this popular program back monthly. Teens had another successful Be Your Own Barista program.

Homeschool group continues to thrive with a Ball Python and Golden Retriever program for show-and-tell.
We had a special Dr. Seuss storytime and STEAM program with Nathan Barnes from the Columbus Fire Department.

Adult Services:

Murder Mystery at the Annex had a great turnout February 24.
Quarterly Cookbook Club and Tasting continues to be deliciously popular.
With the popularity of Hooked on Books & Yarn, we started having "Craft-In" nights twice a month. The first meeting had great turnout with anticipation for further meetings.
We will add a monthly "Read-In" one Saturday morning a month where patrons can discuss books they are currently reading.
The March 12 Gaelic Harp player had to cancel so Catherine led an Irish sing-along in the Annex.

Coming Up:

3/19-Third Thursday Book Club: *How Does That Make You Feel?* by Magda Eklund
3/19-Book Dragons Writing Club
3/21-Huma Siddiqui Cooking Demo
3/23, 4/6, 4/20-Craft In
3/24-Elements of Storytelling with Valerie Biel
3/26-Teen and Adult Puzzle Competition
3/26-Books & Beer with author Sue Berg
4/7-Hooked on Books & Yarn
4/8-Check it Out: Chess! Strategy program with Louis Pace
4/9-After Hours Book Club: *The Perfect Divorce*
4/9-Libby Reads author talk and luncheon
4/15-Nonfiction Book Discussion: *Beyond Anxiety*
4/16-Third Thursday Book Club: *The Mighty Red*
4/20-Romantasy Book Club: *Assistant to the Villan*

Meetings:

Amanda is attending the Public Library Assn. Conference in Minneapolis March 31-April 3.
The Columbia County Board and Directors met March 6 and again voted to give each library \$500 to offset delivery expenses.

Facilities:

Otis Elevator Repair did an inspection and the elevator is working great. However, outside the elevator on the main floor they identified a tripping error which DPW was able to fix.

Library Director's Goals:

See Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: Merry and Kasey DeWitt, the new CLC coordinator, attended a meeting of an ecumenical group at an area church to learn about local issues with our Hispanic neighbors. Church representatives attending were receptive to CLC holding tutoring sessions in their facilities as the library is a public building and might not be safe for immigrants. A member of the Hispanic community said their key needs include legislative advocacy and continued English tutoring. The meeting built awareness of the importance and role of the CLC which is a positive and encouraging sign.

Friends of the Library: The Book Store is doing well. Angelique Pasellas is the new vice president.

Correspondence: The Columbia County Board voted Pete Kaland Advocate of the Year for 2026.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: The Director Evaluation process was explained and discussed. Sue moved and Merry seconded a motion to approve the evaluation process. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Flooring for Program Room and Stairs. Suggested styles and colors presented for comment. Sue moved and Dana seconded a motion to reward the project to Canales Flooring for \$15,000. An Ad Hoc committee of Trina, Amanda and Deb will make the final decision as to color and style. Motion carried.

New Business:

Future of Self-Checkout Machine. Amanda received two quotes for purchase. She checked with other libraries and Envisionware not only was recommended but was nearly \$7,000 less expensive. This equipment will be funded by the Carnegie Grant.

Closed Session:

Convened to closed session per 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss the annual evaluation of the Library Director.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting – April 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary

