

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 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, Nora Vieau, Jim Schieble, Deb Haeffner, Shirley Berkley, Sue Salter, Trina Reid, Dana Pike, Merry Anderson

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

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

Approval of Minutes December 16, 2025: Shirley moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the December Minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: CDAR 1 renews 2/26/2026 at 4.35 %, same as previous month. Year-end SCLS account increased to \$475,651.69 from \$427,059.42 at beginning of year. Merry moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$6,641.669 submitted. Jim moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

Winter Library Program runs through February 7 with more than 250 people participating

Community Outreach:

Helen continues monthly storytimes and daycares and schools in Columbus and Fall River connecting with family beyond Library walls.

Youth Services:

Puzzles especially popular in January with a Teen Puzzle Competition and a Family Puzzle night. Good participation with mix of ages.

Homeschool group continues to grow with puzzle competition and Yule Ball.

Monthly Saturday storytime will be discontinued due to decreasing attendance Staff exploring other ways to engage families on Saturday mornings.

Adult Services:

1/10-Great attendance for Inga Orth presentation on burnout and reconnecting with yourself.

Adult Piano Class meets every Tuesday in January with several Zoom attendees.
1/13-Author Amy Pease presented an author talk about her new book.
Pamphlets highlighting delivery program for homebound patrons distributed around Columbus with several new people signing up.

Looking Ahead:

1/22-Books & Beer with author Jeff Narnia
1/23-Family Pizza & Board Game Night
1/28-Adult Craft Night: Bedazzled Books
2/2-Teen Night: Chocolate Candy Sushi
2/3-Hooked on Books & Yarn
2/5-After Hours Books Club: *Broken Country*
2/9-Art from the Heart Club
2/12-Grievance Journaling
2/16-Romantasy Book Club: *A Forbidden Alchemy*

Meetings:

1/16-Amanda attended Columbia County Directors meeting.
3/31-4/3-Amanda will attend Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis.
Amanda, Helen, Catherine and Kristen will participate in Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference, a free, online, on demand education opportunity.
Note. SCLS is no longer coordinating the number of public Wi-Fi sessions.

Facilities:

CO₂ detector needs replacing.

Library Director's Goals:

Working with Recreation Dept to plan summer activities program. Also, working to plan Summer Library Program.
Attended City of Columbus Supervisors Round Table to learn about generational differences in the workplace.
Hosted two puzzle events planned based on suggestion box feedback.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: Interviewing Coordinator applicant.

Friends of the Library: New officers elected: President Mary Arnold, Vice President Susan Reese, Treasurer Cheryl Hurst.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee presented the Director Evaluation document for review and discussion, Specifically, making it a monthly assessment for Board approval would provide a more accurate evaluation for matching goals to achievement. Document referred back to Personnel Committee for revision.

Trustee Training topics for 2026 presented. Discussed fact that some topics are repeat from recent years and presentations should be optional.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Review CPL Bylaws: Reviewed and discussed with recommendations and updates. Pete will incorporate for vote at March Board meeting.

Flooring for Program Room and Entryway: Sue moved and Pete seconded a motion to have Amanda do additional research with an emphasis on durability and compatibility with existing décor as well as material availability including additional quotes.

Approve hiring of Isaiah Gramza as a Page: He will be working Monday and Friday afternoons. Jim moved and Nora seconded a motion to approve the hire. Motion carried.

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

Next scheduled board meeting – February 17, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary