

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

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

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

Approval of June Minutes:

Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the June 16, 2026, minutes.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: The Fund realized a small gain. CDAR 2 and CDAR 1 both renewed, or will renew respectively, in August at the same rate, 3.72%. CPL received a donation of \$200 from The Step Sisters and a donation of \$15,000 from Diane Doded. Nora moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$4,591 submitted. Dana moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

At more than halfway through the Summer Library Program, 650 people are participating an increase of 30 over last summer.

Laura Wiechert painted the windows in the entry and teen areas.

Community Outreach:

June 20: Catherine and Helen attended Pride in the Park.

June 30: Amanda attended 4th of July Family Night.

August 4: Library will close at 5:00 for National Night Out. Kristi designed the posters for the Police Dept. which we printed free of charge.

Youth Services:

Due to weather, we presented two programs at the Community Center.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we welcomed Magician Zack Percell; James the Magician; Ms. Kim's Amazing Animals, which attracted 250 people; and J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue. We hosted a T-Rex Tea Party on June 22.

City of Columbus Finance Director Kendra Riddle dressed as a dragon for a special storytime. Emergency Management Director Bill Breunig presented tornado-themed storytime. We also had a storytime and Royal Guernsey Creamery.

Summer interns Emily and Xandra are helping with programs, creating their own programs, decorating the teen area, developing scavenger hunts, and dressing as dinosaurs.

Adult Services:

The new Mah Jongg group lead by Connie Schultz is meeting every other Friday. Adult Craft Night painted bricks in June. A second craft group started in July meeting monthly and lead by Amy

Associated Bank gave a June 23 presentation on Frauds and Scams

Coming Up:

Book clubs continue to thrive.

July 23-Books & Beer with author Jim DeVita

August 6-After Hours Book Club: *Kulti*

August 17-Romantasy Book Club: *A Fate Inked in Blood*

August 20-3rd Thursday Book Club: *The Emporer of Gladness*

July 22-Bullysaurus Rex

July 23-Libby Reads Luncheon: *I See You've Called in Dead*

July 23-Adult and Teen Puzzle Competition

July 27-Dinosaur Yoga

July 29-Harry Potter Birthday Party

July 30-Cookbook Club and Tasting

August 3-Dinosaur Dimensions

August 11-End of Summer Reading Party and the Aquatic Center

Meetings:

July 17-Columbia County Library Board and Directors meeting at CPL. Henry St. Maurice, Columbia County Board Member, attended. The members discussed problems with the new system.

July 16-SCLS All Directors meeting at Sun Prairie Library.

Amanda will be gone September 15-20 to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Montgomery, Alabama.

Note. The date recorded in Library Statistics is not consistent with reality and is one of the problems with the new SCLS system. We, in fact, served more people than the data shows. This can negatively affect future budget discussions.

Library Director's Goals:

Goal 1. Helen attended the Make Play Learn Conference in Madison

Goal 3. Summer Reading Program participants surpassed 2025.

Goal 4. Informational brochure on leaving a financial legacy to benefit library in process.

Goal 5. Attended zoom webinar lead by DPI (Dept. of Public Instruction) about policies and updating.

Jim moved and Nora seconded a motion to accept the Director's Report as evidence of progress meeting goals. Motion carried.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: One new tutor. Working on dairy/agriculture terms for ESL clients working on farms.

Friends of the Library: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Shirley moved and Nora seconded a motion to approve the hiring of Amy Berry as custodian.

Merry and Pete will work on the wording for Library Building Fund and Legacy Giving Program materials.

Amanda presented information on the \$25,000 Literacy Bridges: Empowering 21st Century Communities Grant that CPL recently received. The grant was made possible by the Carnegie Corporation and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries. This was an invitation-only competitive grant the recipients can use for new/expanded Adult Literacy Programming. There were 66 winners, 33 in each of two cohorts.

Expectations:

Attend monthly training sessions via Zoom from July 2026-March 2027.

Attend the 2026 and 2027 ARSL Conferences:

September 15-20, 2026-Montgomery, Alabama

September 14-18, 2027-Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Create local programs that start between April 2027-October 2027.

How the money can be spent:

Program marketing, including outreach materials, activities, and digital marketing costs.

Materials including books, educational and project supplies, and materials for in-person events.

Technology such as tablets, laptops, software licenses, and digital infrastructure upgrades.

Development of community partnerships and resource sharing Data collection, outcome measurement, and other evaluation and grant reporting needs.

Staff hours during training calls and conferences, backup staff coverage, and time delivering programs.

Registration and travel for the staff member to attend the ARSL conferences.

Ongoing staff professional development, such as specialized workshops, certifications, and training beyond this program

To date: \$25,000 has already been received

Money must be spent within two years (June 2028) A brief final grant report will be due at the end of the cycle. No receipts or budget will be required.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting – August 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary

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