

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 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, Shirley Berkley, Merry Anderson
Absent: Dana Pike

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

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

Approval of June Minutes:

Shirley moved and Dana seconded a motion to approve the July 21, 2026, minutes.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report:

The SCLS account was down slightly. CDAR1 renews 8/27/26 at 3.72%. Merry moved and Jim seconded a motion to move \$15,000 to the SCLS account. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$2,998.59 submitted. Merry moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

8-11: Summer Library Program had 679 participants and wrapped up with a party at the Columbus Aquatic Center. The Kiwanis Club provided and helped serve food. Jack and the great CAAC team and Janet from the Friends of the Library also helped.

In August and September we encouraged patrons to visit other Carnegie Libraries. With three visits they qualify to win a gift basket donated by local businesses.

Community Partnerships:

CPL assisted the Police Department in creating graphics for their Culver's event and posting on Facebook

CPL attended National Night Out with six staff featuring crafts and giveaways. We also assisted the Department of Public Works with putting handprints on new snowplow

Youth Services:

July 28-Library Director Storytime with Amanda plus Catherine and Pippa, her new puppy.

July 29-Harry Potter Birthday Party on the Library lawn with games, crafts and snacks.

July 29-Utilities Director Randy Myrum joined us with the new snowplow and special guest, Scuba Steve, one of the Fireman's Park goats.

August 4-City Administrator Matt Amundson was joined by Irie and JJ for adventure storytime.

Adult Services:

CPL hosted a luncheon for the Libby Reads Event for *I See You Called in Dead*.

Our new morning Stay Crafty group started and will meet monthly on Friday mornings.

Coming Up:

Book clubs continue to thrive.

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

August 27-Books & Beer with Margaret Mizushima

August 19-Trivia Night

August 25-Cookbook Club and Tasting: Summer Snacks

August 28-Stay Crafty Morning Craft Group

September 7-Library Closed for Labor Day

September 10-Teen and Adult Puzzle Competition

September 12-Let's Get Green and Growing! at the Community Center

Meetings:

August 3-Annual SCLS visit with Tracie Miller. We shared everything we have been working on, goals for next year and how SCLS can help.

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

Buildings and Grounds:

Smell noted in the elevator. The space beneath the elevator floor is clogged. Amanda will coordinate with the plumber and elevator company to resolve.

Other: We discussed the negative impact of inaccurate stats due to new computer system on budget allocations.

Library Director's Goals:

Goal 1. Two meetings with City HR to learn new payroll system.

Goal 2. Work begun on 2027 budget. Also worked with Columbia County Library Board to create a plan for the county library budget which will be presented on September 25.

Goal 3. Wrapped up Summer Library Program with record participation.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: None

Friends of the Library: Attended Back to School Night on August 26 offering pencil giveaway.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: Trina will check the assessment rolls to determine ownership of building on the west side of the library.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Received preliminary budget from the City for review and discussion. The City may approve a 2.5% salary increase. It now offers merit pay but CPL does not so CPL will request a different percentage. The 2025 increase was 2.5%. The range is 2.5% to 5% (\$316,201 to \$323,913). The Cost of Living estimate is 3.6%. Sue made a preliminary motion, dependent on final budget, to approve a staff salary increase of 3.6%. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Next scheduled board meeting – September 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary

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