

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Phyllis Luchsinger Callahan Meeting Room**

Call to Order: Pete Kaland called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Pete Kaland, Amanda Wakeman, Shirley Berkley, Jim Schieble, Trina Reid, Deb Haeffner, Sue Salter, Merry Anderson

Absent: Nora Vieau, Dana Pike

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input:

Approval of the Agenda for July 15, 2025: Jim moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes June 17, 2025: Shirley moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the June Minutes with date correction to reflect that June Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: SCLS account up \$14,913.86 as of 5/30/25. Merry moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$6,145.92 submitted. Deb moved and Shirley seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: Halfway through fiscal year, 55% of budget has been spent.

Library Director's Report:

Summer Library Program runs June 9 through August 10 with 571 people (kids and adults) signed up surpassing last year's total.

Outreach Events:

6/14-CPL participated in Pride in the Park. Helen, Catherine and volunteer Laura Weichert offered family crafts.

7/1-CPL participated in Family Night for the 4th of July hosting a booth of patriotic family make-and-take crafts.

Upcoming Events:

8/5-National Night Out library will close at 5:00 so Catherine, Helen, Amanda, and Kristen can participate with crafts, giveaways and information about CPL services.

Guest Readers:

7/22-Chief Weiner and Chief Hazeltine

7/23-Jake Boness, Columbus Utilities

7/29-Matt Amundson, City Administrator

8/5-CPD Officer Julia Knoll

8/12-Special Library Board Member
8/13-Amy Jo Meyers, Columbus Recreation

Summer Programs;
7/21-Angela Puerta
7/28-The Wonders of Physics
8/4-J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue
8/11-End of Summer Party

Youth Programs:

Storytime at the Farm at Royal Guernsey Dairy was successful with 100 people enjoying stories, songs, crafts and cows.

Guest readers included: City Treasurer Krystal Larson; City Clerk Susan Caine; and Matt Ehrke and Steve Wagner from DPW.

Summer Library Performers included: Ms. Kim's Amazing Animals and musical performances by David Landau and Little Miss Ann.

Note. Afternoon performances drew larger crowds than evening shows. Also, we were excited to welcome families who don't typically participate in library events.

Adult Programs:

6/27-Great turnout for Robert Goodland's book talk on *Beneath the Surface*.

7/23-Adult Craft Night continues to be a favorite

Four Book Clubs include:

Romantasy Book Club, monthly

After Hours Book Club, monthly with 25 members currently

Third Thursday Book Club, monthly

Nonfiction Book Club, quarterly

Meetings:

7/17-All Directors meeting in Wisconsin Dells. Directors will vote on fees for coming year.

7/18-Columbia County meetings at CPL.

Building and Grounds:

Duane from DPW inspected west side windows and will remove storms to assess needed repairs. He also will inspect other windows for possible recaulking.

Library Stats: Books by Mail, Digital Items Borrowed, Public WiFi and Public Computer Use continue to decline. Patrons added down by 21%.

Library Director's Goals: Attended Council/Department Head retreat to work on team building and creating a City of Columbus Mission Statement. Put finishing touches on renovated bathroom including painting janitor door closet. As noted Summer Library Program has surpassed last year's total.

Also, as noted in June Minutes, Department of Public Instruction created a Policy of the Month Club to help libraries review their policies for upgrading and/or additions.

Amanda is reviewing CPL Policy Audit workbook to determine what needs work. Goal is to do a full rehab on CPL policies. The current CPL Library User Policy (rev. 11/17/17) was distributed to board members for review and discussion at next meeting. Amanda also included letters from two CPL staff regarding value and importance of Facebook commenting. City currently has comments shut off. Staff letters noted that no other comparable library has comments shut off.

President's Report: See Ad Hoc Committee on Library Expansion

Literacy Council Report: None

Friends of the Library: Increasing information to the public about library sales as younger customers may be missed. Sales are also attracting new patrons and one customer purchased all audio books in inventory. FOL also received \$1500 donation for outdoor bench.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc Committee on Library Expansion had initial meeting to discuss goals, plans, information from Deb regarding other community experiences. Pete will check into ownership of telephone company building south of library. Most likely the City Administrator is the appropriate contact to approach owners re: CPL interest in the property.

Trustee Training: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

2026 Library Budget-The timeline presented for review. Re: salaries, CPL usually stays in line with the city. Amanda will prepare as information is received.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Deb seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Next scheduled board meeting – August 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary