

**Columbus Public Library
Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 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
Absent: Shirley Berkley

Roll Call, Introduction of Visitors Public Input: Eileen Smith appeared before the Board to request employment reinstatement.

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

Approval of Minutes:

May 19, 2026 Library Board Meeting Minutes. Jim moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Secretary's Report: The Fund realized a gain of \$12,394.71. CDAR rates remained stable. CDAR 1 renews 7/16/26 at 3.72% while CDAR 2 will renew on 8/27/26 at the same rate. Dana moved and Deb seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Bills: Bills of \$8,721.15 submitted Merry moved and Pete seconded a motion to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Budget Comparison: No report available.

Library Director's Report:

Pete thanked the Board for the June 3 reception on the Library lawn. He was named Advocate of the Year for Columbia County Libraries.

We currently have 534 people signed up to the Summer Library Program. As noted in May, the Friends of the Library are sponsoring 6 children's and 6 adult programs for the rest of the year. We celebrated Pride Month with Helen and Catherine at Pride in the Park on June 20, and Dairy Month. We also raffled off a set of beanbag boards and bean bags for Dairy Month donated by Mullins Short Stop

Youth Services:

We have two interns for the summer: Xandra Kauth and Emily Verhey, both energetic Columbus High School Students. They also are interested in working in libraries or with children.

Our first summer performer was June 9 with Magician Zack Percell on the Library Lawn. He was joined by 143 people.
Fire Chief Scott Hazeltine and Police Chief Dennis Weaver joined us for Storytime with the Chiefs on June 10.

Adult Services:

Making Mocktails was an adult hit.

Antique Appraisals with Mark Moran had a full schedule with patrons and many onlookers.

The May 26 Author Talk with Jeannee Sacken has been moved to fall.

On July 16 at 10:00 a.m. we will start a new Stay Crafty program. The craft class will be led by Amy and meet one morning a month.

Coming Up:

Book clubs continue to thrive.

June 18-Third Thursday Book Club: *Atmosphere*

June 25-Books & Beer: Author Sheila Lowe

July 2-After Hours Book Club: *Every Summer After*

July 15-Nonfiction Book Club: *Midnight on the Potomac*

July 16-Third Thursday Book Club: *The Pretender*

July 20-Romantasy Book Club: *Bride*

June 17-Storytime At the Farm at Royal Guernsey Creamery

June 18-Murder Mystery at the Annex: Time Travel Terror

June 23-Frauds & Scams presented by Associated Bank

June 24-Mrs. Kims Amazing Animals

June 24-Adult Craft Night: Painted Bricks

June 26-Introduction to Mah Jongg with Connie Schultz

July 2-Prehistoric Pets with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue

Meetings:

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

July 17-Columbia County Board and Directors meeting in Columbus

Building and Grounds: DPW dug out the hole that developed in the parking lot, filled it and are monitoring to determine if it sinks anymore before blacktopping.

Notes about statistics. As noted last month SCLS is still not able to pull up circulation or patrons added statistics yet. It is a work in progress.

Library Director's Goals:

For June:

Goal 2. CPL received a Literacy Bridges: Empowering 21st Century Communities grant from the Association for Small and Rural Libraries backed by the Carnegie Corporation. This \$25,000 grant will go for adult basic and digital literacy needs over the next two years.

Goal 3. Starting a morning craft class led by Amy.

Goal 4. Attended a webinar on relationships between Libraries and Municipalities
Goal 5. The monthly SCLS Policy of the Month group looked at social medial policies.
CPL updated its policy in 2025 and it is in line with the group recommendations.

President's Report: None

Literacy Council Report: Two new clients both from Colombia. Tutor training is being planned.

Friends of the Library: Now meeting every other month. Sponsored a free book coupon.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers: Deb moved and Sue seconded a motion to elect the existing slate of officers for another one-year term. Officers are: Pete Kaland, President; Nora Vieau, Vice President; Merry Anderson, Secretary; Jim Schieble, Treasurer. Motion carried.

Discussed adding two new positions to the Library Board. Pete explained that as a Class IV community library we are limited by regulation to six members plus a county, city and school representative.

Adjourn: Jim moved and Dana seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Anderson, Secretary

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