

CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINUTES LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING JANUARY 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Cedzo called the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025 in the Boardroom at the Headquarters library.

Trustees Present: Chair Dennis Cedzo, Vice Chair Ann McRae, David Breece, Daniel Montoya, Gloria Nelson, Rebecca Pedigo and Pamela Story

Present from the Library: Assistant County Manager/Library Director Faith Phillips, Senior Division Manager for Collection Development & Circulation Pamela Kource, Division Manager for Programs Carla Brooks, Community Engagement Division Manager Kohnnee Harmon, service award recipients (see table below) and the Director's Executive Assistant Marili Melchionne

A. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST: Chair Cedzo introduced Friends of the Library Board President Belinda Wilkerson who gave the following report on behalf of the board:

- ✓ There are now 234 Friends members for 2024.
- ✓ This Sunday (1/21) the Friends will have their annual meeting/author event. Author Diya Abdo will talk about her book *American Refuge: True Stories of the Refugee Experience*. Sunday's event starts at 3:00 in the Pate Room. Her book can be purchased for \$20 and she will be signing books after the program.
- ✓ If you have not renewed your Friends membership, you can do so at the event on Sunday. Starting at 2:00, a table will be setup in the lobby for that purpose.
- ✓ Upcoming Book Sales – February 19th is the next Member's sale, and the public sales begin Friday, February 23rd thru Sunday the 25th.

II. APPROVAL OF TODAY'S MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Vice Chair McRae moved to approve today's meeting agenda.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2024 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Vice Chair McRae moved to approve the October 24, 2024 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Presented by Director Faith Phillips

A. Service Award Recipients: Phillips recognized and honored the following staff members for their years of dedicated service with the library:

Name	Title	Branch Location	Years of Svc.
Casey Ausborn	Librarian II/Tech Services	Headquarters	5
Carla Brooks	Division Manager for Programs	Headquarters	5
Kasey Reaves	Librarian II	Bordeaux	5
Marili Melchionne	Director's Executive Assistant	Headquarters	15
Ginger Hewett	Library Associate	East Regional	20
Patricia Tew	Administrative Technician	East Regional	25

B. Library Director's Update:

Phillips updated the group on the following items:

1. Miller's Brew @ Café West – Millers will be going into the unused space at West Regional library which was included when the building was built but had never been used. This is an opportunity for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to receive paid job opportunities and is a part of our Commissioners' budget priorities for FY 24/25.

On November 25, 2024, we hosted a "key transfer" ceremony where we transferred a symbolic key to the space to Kim & Karl Molnar who started Miller's Brew. This was to symbolize that we were beginning the work on the space for them. There was an article in the *Fayetteville Observer* newspaper. Photos were shown of the symbolic key transfer event. Bright, vibrant murals have been added to the walls in the lobby at West as a result of a partnership with the Arts Council. The same artist painted the murals at Miller's Brew and is consistent with their vibe. An espresso machine and point of sale system were delivered yesterday.

2. Photos were shown of the new "Mother's Room" at West Regional. This initiative was started in partnership with the CC Health Department. After some printing changes, we had some space open and turned it into a comfortable/private space which mothers can use to spend time with their babies.
3. New Year, New Printing! One of the long established needs of the library system was a way to improve our printing system. It was evident that we needed to figure out a way to improve our printing system. We needed new technology, and to get away from our Venda-Card system because it was not an effective system. Over the past three years the library's leadership team has been working with the County's technology department and Systel because our printing is provided in agreement with Systel. This week, we're getting new printers. In addition to this we're getting an entirely new printing system. A photo was shown of the first one that was installed.

We also wanted to consolidate our printing and make it more customer friendly with less steps. Customers can pay by cash/coin/credit card and Apple Pay. Our printers were out dated and we couldn't get parts for them. The new ones are smaller and more streamlined.

4. New courier truck: The big courier truck has been replaced with a new truck and we should have it within the next 2 weeks. The new vehicle will be wrapped at some point in the future.
5. Meeting Room updates: In the next few weeks, working with our IT team and internal services team, we will be starting construction and technology upgrades in our meeting rooms. There may be some times where the meeting rooms may be unavailable.
6. Library camera security upgrades: In addition to other technology items, at our libraries, it is necessary for us to have a robust camera system in our public areas. The upgrades have been given priority and will be taken care of in this budget year.
7. Artist in Residence Program: We are working to submit a grant to the state library. We are looking to start an artist in residence program in our libraries. The grant will provide a stipend, a space for the artist and it will culminate with a traveling exhibit. The North Regional Branch Manager Gracey Gordon and Special Projects Liaison Danielle Ellis will be submitting a full grant proposal to the state by March.
8. Digital Literacy Grant: Phillips called on Community Engagement Division Manager Kohnne Harmon to tell the group about the digital literacy grant. Harmon shared that the library received a PLA grant with AT&T for \$10,000. The grant funding will provide free workshops throughout the libraries. We will be giving away one Chromebook at the end of each program. We're also giving away gift cards and we will give away eight Chromebooks at the end of May so those who did not get a Chromebook, their eligible to get one. We will also do two bilingual programs.

9. Bookmobile update: We have \$224,000 LSTA grant funds. This is for a basic bookmobile. We have been in contract negotiations and it has taken longer than anticipated.
10. Phillips gave a overview of some of the upcoming programs including author events and the Storytelling Festival.

V. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Housekeeping Item: Trustee sign up to attend 2025 Friends of the Library Executive Board Meetings – Chair Dennis Cedzo

Chair Cedzo passed the sign up sheet around so that the trustees could sign up for 2025 Friends meetings.

B. Community Engagement & Outreach Services Report – Division Manager for CE and Outreach Kohnne Harmon

Harmon gave the following report: The Community Engagement Department has been actively providing services to our community. Home Delivery Service saw an increase in patrons. Resource Sharing had two counties added during this fiscal year. The Digital Navigators programs are very popular at the senior centers. The Library continues to be popular at outreaches in the community.

C. Other Business:

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Chair Cedzo adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.