

Columbia County Library System
Minutes for November 6, 2025 at 9:30 am
Columbia County Library (Evans Branch) Meeting Room A

Present at the meeting included:

Chair Connie Melear
Vice Chair John Luton
Member Rusty Jarrett
Member Secelia Brown

County Manager Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
County Clerk Patrice Crawley
Libraries Manager Keisha Evans
Admin Angelica Bermudez

CALL TO ORDER

County Manager Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INVOCATION

County Manager Johnson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Manager Johnson led the pledge to the American flag.

County Manager Johnson explained that this Board will manage the Columbia County library system. They will enter into an IGA/Service Agreement with the Board of Commissioners and hire the regional library director. The new system will start on January 1, 2026, so this Board must meet to ensure everything is prepared by that date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

County Manager Johnson called for the election.

Member Jarrett nominated Member Melear as the Chair. All voted in favor of Connie Melear as the Chair of the Columbia County Library System.

Chair Melear nominated Member Luton as Vice Chair. All voted in favor of John Luton as the Vice Chair of the Columbia County Library System.

The Board decided to postpone electing a Secretary/Treasurer until a future meeting.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Melear presented the November 06, 2025 agenda.

ADOPTION OF CCLS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Chair Melear stated that the Board had received the draft Constitution and Bylaws. Member Jarrett made a motion to approve the Columbia County Library System Constitution and Bylaws. Vice Chair Luton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Melear stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session, that the room should be cleared of the public and that everyone may come back when the meeting is called to order. Vice Chair Luton made a motion at 9:40 a.m. to go into executive session. Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Brown made a motion to adjourn from executive session at 9:52 a.m. Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Columbia County Library System
Minutes for November 6, 2025 at 9:30 am
Columbia County Library (Evans Branch) Meeting Room A**

Chair Melear called the meeting back to order at 9:53 a.m.

County Manager Johnson stated that one personnel item was discussed but no action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joan Krupsky stated her concerns about forming a single library system.

Karin Parham stated that the Library Board should be independent of the Board of Commissioners.

Karen Phelps stated that everyone should have the right to parent and no reshelving of books.

Priscilla Bence thanked the board for the guidelines.

Susan Warren stated her concerns of a sitting commissioner and county employee making up the Library Board.

Angela Seehusen stated her concerns on lack of transparency.

Kaitlin Giddens stated she would not like the current guidelines brought forward and that this board should move in a different direction than the previous board.

Anna Moza stated that the board should review the reshelving process, it seems very vague.

Vice Chair Luton stated that the board will be voting for a Collection Development Policy in the future.

Member Brown stated that she will consider everything that was said today.

Member Jarett stated that he was glad to hear all the different points of views and will consider them.

Member Jarett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Connie M. Melear, Chair

Patrice Crawley, County Clerk