

Minutes of the
Library Departmental Trustees Meeting
September 28, 2004
4:00 PM
Morganton Public Library

Trustees present: Linda Chester, Sterling Collett, Margaret Edwards, Lyvonne Ellison, Dottie Ervin, Pam Hildebran, Nell Hildebrand, Vickie Oxentine and William Robertson.

Staff present: Becky Stragand, Ank van der Kuil and Jim Wilson.

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order and noted a quorum present.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and a correction requested by Pam Hildebran to change “possible” to “possibility in the fourth paragraph under New Business.

A motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction was made by Margaret Edwards and seconded by Pam Hildebran.

Chairman reported that there were no committee reports, and no communications.

Old Business: Interim Director Jim Wilson asked the Trustees to decide on what to do with the boxwoods at the Valdese Public Library. Valdese librarian, Betty Riley, contacted Chad Perry of Table Rock Nursery who presented two options: severe cut back of the healthy bushes and removal of diseased ones or remove them totally. After some discussion the trustees agreed to have all the bushes trimmed including the diseased ones and watch those as they grow back. It was stated that the bushes should not be cut back all the way to the ground but rather trimmed back and reshaped.

New Business: the chairman gave an update on the search for the new Director. A discussion followed on the interview process. The trustees were invited to participate in the interviews of the candidates on Thursday, October 7, 2004. On Monday, October 4th at 4:00 PM the search committee will hold their strategy meeting.

Foundation Update: Becky Stragand reported that the Foundation is in the process of analyzing the budget. Sterling Collett stated that the Foundation hopes that the expenses for the FY 03-04 Inc. audit required by the State Library, will be paid by the county and not the Foundation. Cash flow is a problem right now as they will not have the Book Ball until February 2005. He stated he has talked to Ron George who has informed Paul Ijames about the audit. Jim Wilson reported that he, Becky and Ank met with the County auditors (Lowdermilk) to discuss how to proceed with the audit required by the State Library.

Adult Programs: Ank reported the past two programs were a great success. September 7th, at 7:00 PM Etta Baker came and played her instruments on the eve of Ivan and even with the horrendous weather 125 people came to hear her play. Sharyn McCrumb was here on September 19th and we had 58 people attend. The next two programs in October are Kevin Duffus, author/filmmaker who will talk about his book “The Lost Light” and on October 19th Miguel Angel Pico Olivos will play his classical guitar again for us. This musical program is funded by the Friends of the Library.

Budget: Jim Wilson reported on the Library’s budget. He mentioned although the library is in a difficult financial state, the other County departments are in similar situations. Some good news is that fines/fees revenue was budgeted in the amount of 5,000. It is expected to bring in about \$30,000 this year. The county has agreed that the library can use this money to make up shortfalls in the budget for this year.

Maintenance Grounds VPL: Wilson reported that the town of Valdese has agreed to maintain the lawn at Valdese Library. Current talks are under way to ask the Waldensian Presbyterian Church to maintain the lawn of the Cole House.

Fire Entry Procedure: Trustee Hildebrand inquired last meeting about fire entry procedures at the library. Ank has been in discussion with Fire Department. A solution is for library to buy a lock box for each location that will be ordered by Fire department. Each box has key to building inside. Only the Fire department has a key to open the box. Each box costs about \$300.

Automation Update: Wilson reported that the County and the City of Morganton have paid their part (\$8500 each) to assist the library in their automation upgrade. The Town of Valdese did not contribute the \$8500 requested to support the project. After talks with Acting County Manager, Paul Ijames, the library has signed the contract with Dynix for the automation upgrade.

Roofing Morganton Library: The pitched roof at the Morganton library has been fixed.

Miscellaneous: 631 free CD's have been received by the library. Wilson commended Alicia Lorenzo-Scott for her work in selecting the CDs.

The next meeting will be October 26, 2004 at the Morganton Public Library at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Chester/avdk