

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
March 28, 2006 at 4:00 PM
Morganton Library

Trustees Present: Wesley Abele, Linda Chester, Lyvonne Ellison, Dorothy Ervin, Pamela Hildebran, Nell Hildebrand, Vickie Oxentine, William Robertson, John Rostan, Mary Ellen Wiese
Trustees Absent: Sterling Collett, Steve Settlemyer
Staff Present: Gale Benfield, Jane Chownyk, Tresia Dodson, Ank van der Kuil, Jim Wilson

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Minutes of the February 28, 2006 meeting: Requests were made to correct “Vicky Oxentine” to Vickie Oxentine, last page of the minutes should read “page 3 of 3” and “Mong Festival” should read “Hmong Festival.” The minutes with the requested corrections were approved following a motion by Nell Hildebrand which was seconded by Lyvonne Ellison.

Correspondence and Communications: None

Report of the Library Staff:

A. Gale Benfield, NC Room Curator reported the 4th Annual Black History Gathering of the People was a great success. As February is also women’s history month, this year’s theme was “A Celebration of the Quiet Strength of Black Women.” Several quilts made by black women were on exhibition in the library.

The DAR women brought a collection of commemorative pewter coins to the library in celebration of women’s history month.

The Ancestors in the Attic Series which was started in 2000, will have three sessions this year: May 8, May 15 and May 22.

May 8 is planned for an informative session at the Clerk of Court and the Register of Deeds at the Court House.

On May 15, the Burke County Public Library and the Genealogical Society will present Dr. Dan Morrill who will be talking about his book “The Southern Campaign” at Grace Ridge Community Room.

On May 22, the Children’s School’s eight graders will present their research project on how the first settlers of Burke County impacted this county. They have been conducting oral interviews and researching material in the N.C. Room.

B. Jane Chownyk, Youth Services Librarian reported that as March is National Crafts Month, the children have been involved in learning how to quilt, chrochet and create some pottery. Both adults and children showed up to see glass blowers in action in the lobby of the library. To promote cultural awareness the children also saw a program presented by a Hmong lady who showed the colorful patchwork quilts that portray Hmong stories.

C. Jim Wilson, Assistant Director reported that the County has agreed to use money that was not spent in FY04-05 to repair the buildings in Morganton, Valdese and Hildebran this year. He and Keith Farris of the County toured the buildings and noted the necessary repairs to be made.

The Morganton Library needs exterior and interior painting. This is going to be expensive. Some light fixtures have to be replaced and the mildew damaged wall board in the Children's Reference section will have to be replaced.

Valdese will get new carpet which will be approximately 12,000 - \$13,000
Some of the windows will be replaced or fixed.

Removal of Trees. Jim Wilson talked to the city about the status of some of the trees in the front yard at the Morganton Library. The city has agreed to remove the following trees: the two trees directly beside the walk to the library leading to the Concord side of the property. These trees have rotted and are in danger of falling. Also the cedar trees that are on each side of the building are too close to the building and cause a moisture problem. It is felt that they need to be removed to prevent moisture and more damage to the building. They also discussed removing the leaning tree on the property of the rental home beside the library.

A motion to approve the removal of the mentioned trees is made by Wesley Abele, a second was made by Mary Ellen Wiese and the motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Executive Director, Tresia Dodson reported on the County's financial report for the library for the month of February 2006.

In answer to a question stated in a previous meeting, she explained that the 457 deferred plan is the County's 2% match for the employees that participate in the 457 or 401-K Retirement Plan.

A motion made by Dottie Ervin to approve the County's budget was seconded by Pam Hildebran and approved by the board.

New Business: There was no new business.

The Library Board of Trustees agreed to go into an executive session at 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Chester/avdk