

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
April 1, 2008 at 4:00pm
Valdese Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Dottie Ervin, Nell Hildebrand, Susan Keller, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Becky Stragand, Ken Whittington, Mary Ellen Wiese
Trustees Absent: Wesley Abele, Rose Ann Childres, Steve Settlemeier
Staff Present: Ank van der Kuil, Jim Wilson

Mary Ellen Wiese called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were read and approved unanimously by the board.

Correspondence and
Communications: None.

Financial Report: Library Director, Jim Wilson, reported that the library is on track for revenue. As of February, almost \$33,000 has been taken in for fines and fees. Wilson will meet with the Hildebran Town Council on April 15 to discuss our budget request and other library issues. He noted the library's proposed budget for FY 08/09 has already been turned in to the county.

Staffing Update: Wilson reported that 100% of the positions have been filled. Expanded hours started February 1 and have been well received by the public. Staffing for the Summer Reading Program has been arranged. Wilson noted that Gale Benfield will return in a couple of weeks, following knee surgery, and thanked Dottie Ervin for her extra work in the North Carolina Room.

Building Repairs: Wilson reported that the building repairs are still on hold, partly due to problems with getting bids. The question of better maintenance of the landscaping at the Valdese Public Library was raised and several solutions were discussed including getting help from another local Girl Scout troop.

General Library
Update: While circulation is up, it is beginning to decline, partly due to the fact that book money runs low toward the end of the fiscal year. Wilson noted the Summer Reading Program starting in June will bring the numbers back up. Ank's movie series continues to do well, and Mindy Evans is going to start an adult book-to-movie program. Space consultant, Phil Barton, will be coming soon for an initial meeting. The Holocaust exhibit will be up a few more days. The Appalachian State

University Steel Drum Band will play on the front lawn Saturday, April 12. Appalachian balladeer, Sheila K. Adams, will appear on Sunday, April 13, as a kick-off to National Library Week. The Book Clubs of Burke County will host an afternoon tea with author Ann Ross, benefiting the Library and honoring the Muses. Proceeds will go to buying benches for the front porch of the Morganton Public Library. The News Herald has been providing better coverage lately. Wilson reported that the Book Ball has been postponed until the fall. There were a couple of incidents of theft and vandalism recently. Locking up belongings and providing better security may be necessary. The Gates Foundation, in cooperation with OCLC, is offering more grants. Based on a community's level of poverty, only Morganton and C.B. Hildebrand qualify, but the money would be valuable for providing more computers, staff training, and peripheral equipment. Lastly, Wilson mentioned the hard work of Greg Poe in revamping the website.

Committee Reports: Library Support Committee
Wilson emphasized the importance of the advocacy efforts with the budget and the Cole House.

Cole House Project
Wilson displayed a diagram of Bakh Alam's plan for site use. He pointed out that it would be aesthetically pleasing and functional, with programming, meeting, and multimedia space. Wilson added that the advocacy group must start thinking about timelines, space, fundraising, a steering committee, and involvement with the citizens of Valdese.

Wilson commented that last year's advocacy presentation format was effective and that it could be used again this year. The more community supporters the more effective our presentation will be. Wilson also mentioned there will be a bill introduced in the state legislature that could provide a substantial amount of money for book collections for public libraries in North Carolina. If funded fully the bill would provide more than \$52,000 for the Burke County Public Library for materials.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: FY 2008-2009 Proposed Budget

Wilson reported the highlights and priorities of the budget proposal :

1. To fully fund the second year of the five-year-plan including hiring a full-time technology coordinator.
2. To maintain expanded hours which began in February 2008.
3. To increase the materials budget.
4. To upgrade the phone systems in Morganton and Valdese.

Because of significant increases in salaries from the MAPS plan along with upgrading some positions from part-time to full-time , higher insurance costs and adding the technology coordinator position most of the additional funds for year two of the funding plan go to personnel costs. Wilson noted there were modest increases to line items in the operational budget such as spending an additional \$5000 on books. He added that the third year would provide significant funds for materials. Wilson mentioned that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding involving the funding arrangement between Burke County, Morganton, and Valdese and the disposition of unspent funds was included with the submitted FY 2008/2009 Budget.

A motion to adopt the proposed FY 2008-2009 Budget was made and passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, at 4:00pm at the Morganton Public Library.

The next Library Support Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 14, at 5:30pm in the meeting room at the Morganton Public Library.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Keller/jdw