

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
July 27, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Morganton Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Dottie Ervin, Gene Huffman, Mary Ellen Wiese, Reba Williams, Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: Rose Ann Childres, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Steve Settlemyer, Gail Williamson

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Chairman Bakh Alam called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum

Financial Report: Director Wilson presented the budget for 2010/2011. He went through the budget line by line, pointing out increases and cuts. Retirement and insurance costs are up. Book budget cut by almost \$5,000. Program budget took a hit, but the Foundation and Friends of the Library will offset the difference. Overall, Wilson said this is a good budget for the library, but he says the library cannot continue to absorb the insurance increases while not getting additional funds.

Staffing Update: Hiring freeze is still in effect. Wilson said he has asked to have a library page position unfrozen but it was not approved.

Building Repairs: Wilson reported that there are still some issues at the Morganton site – the HVAC system, the front steps are deteriorating, front porch railing is loose as are some of the stones. Dottie Ervin pointed out the white front doors look terrible. They should be pressure washed soon, Wilson said. The gutters did get cleaned out, but the cleaners noted the library will probably need a new roof in three to four years. The Valdese site is in pretty good shape and C.B. Hildebrand is fine for now with some lighting issues.

General Library Update: Wilson said it's been a good year overall. Circulation is up by 3.7 percent. The real growth is in Hildebran, which reported a 40 percent uptick in circulation. New patron registration is up 26 percent. Wilson will give the numbers for programming at the next meeting and said there have been some really good comments about the Summer Reading Program.

Cole House Project: State Employees' Credit Union turned down the library's request. Jim is contacting some other foundations about funding opportunities. The project is still in the works.

C.B. Hildebrand Site Update: Wilson urged the trustees to attend the public hearing on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, to hear Hildebran residents talk about site plans. The town will be presenting its plans but not for the old high school building.

The new option is in the East Burke Alternative School site, which is owned by the school system. Red Clay will also present.* Bakh and Jim visited the site. It is 8600 square feet of classrooms and 10,000 square feet in all.

*Red Clay has since withdrawn the offer for the Cline Mill project due to time constraints.

Summer Reading
Program Update:

Wilson said this was the last week of the Summer Reading Program and it's been very successful. When the numbers are in, he thinks they will show an increase in the number of participants who will have read more books than ever before.

LSTA Grants
Update:

The library received both grants. Jim will be meeting with the planning consultant to draw up a five-year plan. The second grant is a \$20,000 collection development grant for adult non-fiction with a \$5000 match from the Foundation. Jim said that collection is very out-of-date.

Miscellaneous:

Director Wilson reported that Burke County EMS had asked to use the garages of the rental properties located behind the Morganton site. The Library Foundation owns that property. The EMS will get BRIDGE crew to clean up and then refurbish the garages for rescue equipment used primarily at Lake James and Linville Gorge but currently stored in the eastern part of the county.

Wilson noted that he had been contacted by Carlton Caruso Jr. who related that his late father had left shares of BB&T stock to the library in his will. That money is to be designated for the Valdese Public Library building fund.

The county will be moving the library network onto the county's network, changing all IP addresses and upgrading Internet bandwidth. Wireless access will also be implemented. He said the county also may move the library's phone system onto its network as well.

New Business:

The Valdese Public Library has received a request from the Rev. Tom Bentley of Healing Homes Ministry to use the library on Sundays when the library is not open. Trustees generally felt this request should not be granted, but no vote was taken due to lack of quorum. Currently Valdese Methodist Church uses the library for Sunday School. This was allowed because the church lets the library use its parking lot.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at the Valdese Public Library.

Respectfully submitted : Anna Wilson