

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
October 5, 2010, 4:30 p.m.
Morganton Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Rose Ann Childres, Dottie Ervin, Gene Huffman, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, John Whisnant, Mary Ellen Wiese, Reba Williams, Gail Williamson, and Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: Steve Settlemyer

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Chair Bakh Alam called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Director Wilson presented three months of financial reports and went over in detail the September report. He is concerned about the cost of utilities for the Morganton site. The City of Morganton increased rates by 9 percent last year and another 9 percent this year. Wilson said the staff is trying to conserve as much as possible and he has moved money from different areas to hopefully take care of the costs for the rest of the year. The Library did get the LSTA Strengthening Collections grant for \$20,000 with the Library Foundation matching with \$5,000. This money will be used to purchase adult non-fiction at all three sites. Wilson said next year will be a tough budget year.

Staffing Update: No changes.

Building Repairs: Wilson has requested county maintenance take a look at the front steps in Morganton where coating is wearing off. Also, he said the staff is keeping an eye on the front door entry where some people have fallen recently. He said the staff is trying to identify why – lighting, rugs or some other reason – so it can be fixed. No one has been seriously injured.

General Library Update: Wilson said the numbers look good and the libraries are maintaining circulation numbers, computer use, and patron registration.

Cole House Project: Library staff has prepared packets for two foundations – the Janirve Foundation of Asheville and the Phifer-Johnson Foundation. Hopefully, the library will receive some grant money for this project.

Summer Reading Program Update: Wilson said the SRP has been tremendously successful this year. He compared 2006 numbers to this year: 1,030 children, 190 young adults and 222 adults registered in 2006; this year, the numbers were 1,200, 300 and 276 respectively. Almost 8,000 people attended the 240

programs held over the summer of 2010. He encouraged the trustees to thank anyone on the staff responsible for programming saying they have worked very hard.

Annual Statistical
Report:

September was National Library Card Signup Month and the library registered 700 new card holders. Many library patrons gave comments on what the library means to them and the comments were very positive. Wilson said The News Herald is writing an article about the numbers.

The annual report shows library operating hours have increased due mainly to the increase of hours at the C.B. Hildebrand site. Wilson said he doubted many others would have increased hours this year. Circulation is up – 253,204 this year compared to 243,871 last year. Wilson’s goal is going over 300,000. The number of programs offered this year was 1,279. Wilson said no other library in the surrounding counties – including Catawba – had more programs and more attendance. “We do really well and I’m very proud of our programmers,” Wilson said.

New Business:

Trustees looked over the architectural drawings for the East ALPS facility as a site for the C.B. Hildebrand Library. Trustee Chairman and architect Bakh Alam provided the drawings at no cost. He also helped Wilson with estimating the cost of renovating the building. The renovation costs will run approximately \$145,000. The approximate on-going costs of operating the library will be \$12,500 more than that to operate the current site.

The Town of Hildebran has offered a \$25,000 matching grant for renovation costs. Wilson said he will ask the Foundation and the Friends to make up the matching amount. The trustees voted unanimously to back this site for the library. It was suggested that a committee be formed of staff, town officials and town residents to come up with fund-raising efforts.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at the Valdese Public Library.

Respectfully submitted : Anna Wilson