

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
May 22, 2012, 4:00 p.m.
Hildebran Town Hall

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, John Cantrell , Johnnie Carswell, Mark Rostan, John Whisnant, Gail Williamson , Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: Rose Ann Childres, Deborah Ferris, Frances Hildebran, Melanie Mikusa, Reba Williams

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Chair Mark Rostan called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.

A. Financial Report: Director Jim Wilson reported that revenues were all in good shape. Since we had a mild winter, the utility bills weren't as high as expected. He hoped summer would be mild as well. Bakh Alam asked about a line item on staff training. Wilson said staff training is funded through the Library Foundation.

Mark Rostan asked if C.B. Hildebrand funding included T-1 but Wilson said the new server will take care of that. Wilson went over a summary sheet of a version of the budget he thinks likely to be approved by county commissioners.

Wilson said two concerns in the budget are money for books and capital improvements.

B. Personnel Report: Wilson said the library had hired Margaret Ruark to take the place of Alicia Lorenzo who is doing well in her new job at the J. Iverson Riddle Development Center. Ruark currently works at Liberty Middle School and her first day at the library will be May 28. Wilson added that he had gotten staff in place for the Summer Reading Program – volunteers, temporary, and full-time staff.

C. Facilities Report: Wilson reported that the lighting issue at C.B. Hildebrand has been fixed. He noted the Morganton branch is having problems with front sidewalk and he had sent in a county maintenance request.

D. General Library
Report:

Wilson said numbers at the library are still going down but not as rapidly. Circulation is down 6 percent for the year: Morganton down 7%; Valdese down 4.5%; and C.B. Hildebrand down 5.5%. Computer usage is down and Wilson attributed a portion of that to Internet issues (a virus). Patron registration numbers are still going up. The library registered 5,200 new patrons this year.

Wilson said programming numbers are looking very good and will have numbers at the next meeting. A Taste of Culture brought 400-500 people to the library. The Most Wanted List in the newspaper brought in eight books last week.

The library has applied for a \$4,500 grant from the Community Foundation to provide bookbags to area day care centers. That money will be used to purchase new bags and replenish books along with the 100 new children's books given by the Brownstone Fund to every library in North Carolina.

The library also applied for a grant to the LSTA to fund 18 new computers and 2 new printers at the Valdese Public Library. This would replace all the computers at that site.

The selection for Burke Reads this year will be "The Great Gatsby." The library has several partners for the event.

E. Capital Campaign: Chair Mark Rostan is on the Steering Committee along with Jim Wilson Sr., Vickie Oxentine, and Barbara Temple.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 24, 2012, at 4 p.m. at the Valdese Town Hall.

Submitted by Anna Wilson