

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
January 24, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Hildebran Town Hall

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Debbie Hodges, Mark Rostan, John Whisnant, Reba Williams, Gail Williamson, Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: John Cantrell, Johnnie Carswell, Rose Ann Childers, Deborah Ferris, Frances Hildebran

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Chairman Mark Rostan called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.

Nominating Committee report: The Nominating Committee put forth the following officers for 2013: Chairman: Mark Rostan; Vice Chairman: Anna Wilson; Treasurer: Bakh Alam; Secretary: Reba Williams (Jim Wilson to do minutes.) A motion to approve the officers as nominated was made by Bakh Alam, seconded by John Whisnant, and approved by the board.

Correspondence: None.

Director's Report: Director Jim Wilson introduced new trustee Debbie Hodges, who will fill the term vacated by the resignation of Melanie Mikusa. The board welcomed Debbie as a new member.

A. Financial Report: Director Wilson said expenses are looking OK as long as utility bills stay at the projected amount. He reported that the library received \$144,414 from State Aid, higher than the projected amount of \$128,000. Burke County received more due to a change in the information used to calculate the amount. Per capita income decreased in Burke County so the library received more money which will be used to purchase new staff computers. Wilson said the library is grateful for the extra funds.

B. Personnel Report: Wilson said the library has filled the two vacant positions. Jerrica Hefner is now full-time Library Assistant at the Valdese Public Library and Ashlyn Alberti is the new part-time page at the Morganton Public Library.

C. Facilities Report: Wilson said the library had received quotes on the ramp/step project at the Morganton Public Library. The low bid was \$35,900. We have budgeted \$47,500 for the project. Wilson said he would like to add a bike rack and also wants to make sure about the status of the repairs to the porch surface. It did not appear to be included in the original quote. Valdese and C.B. Hildebrand sites have no major issues.

D. General Report: For July through December, total circulation decreased again by 9.2% Morganton is down 3.5%; Valdese by 19.5% and Hildebrand by 22.6%. Computer usage is down and Wilson attributes this drop to computer problems at Valdese where a bad router had the system down almost 10 days. Patron registration is up by 2.4%.

Wilson said there are 1,015 active requests for materials which indicate a significant demand for reading materials. Almost 180 books have been donated through the “Most Wanted” book program.

Wilson then reported on various library activities including the Friends of the Library Author’s Luncheon, Black History Month, Summer Reading Program and College Foundation workshop.

The library received a \$7,000 Literacy Grant from Dollar General that will be used in partnership with the Burke County Literacy Council. Wilson also reported his meeting with the state library consultant. When the consultant asked for suggestions, Wilson said his was that consultants live in the regions they serve. Wilson noted they don’t often see the consultants as it seems there are always travel restrictions that prevent them from visiting.

E. Cole House: Fund-raising for the Cole House Project is on-going but donations have been slow during this period. So far the fund has \$280,000 of the \$400,000 goal. A campaign thermometer will be erected in Valdese.

F. Technology Report: The county installed a new phone system at the Morganton site before the end of December. Several changes and upgrades to the library’s network were necessary. Over the next few months, all sites will be seeing new computers and network upgrades. Valdese has a grant for new computers so those will probably be replaced first. Overall, the library system is doing well, Wilson said. He said the staff has worked very hard to get as much done as possible with limited resources especially the programmers.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 4 p.m. at the Morganton Public Library.

Submitted by Anna Wilson