

## ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** February 17, 2009  
**PLACE:** May Memorial Library / Director's Office  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Dingeldein, Carlene Morton,  
Kitty Hupman, Shirley Beyer, Jo Grimley  
Carrie Thompson, Lennie Stout, George Byrd  
and Tim Sutton  
**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Mike Cross  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Judy Cobb

### CALL TO ORDER

Following lunch, Chair Carlene Morton called the meeting to order at 12:10PM with a quorum present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Dingeldein moved and Shirley Beyer seconded approval of the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cobb reported on the following items:

1. Mrs. Cobb gave an update on the new public library to be built in Elon. The Elon Library Building Committee has now met three times. The Building Committee is being chaired by the former Mayor of Elon, Beth Schmidt, for whom the park is named. Mrs. Cobb is serving on the Building Committee along with Brad Moore, architect for Elon University; Steve Trogdon, Twin Lakes; Rick Kiser, Elon resident; Mike Dula, Elon Town Manager and Don Wagoner, Town of Elon. Jo Grimley is the Committee Liaison to the Elon Board of Aldermen. The RFQ for selection of the architect was approved by the Board of Aldermen on February 10, 2009 and has been mailed to interested firms, as well as being advertised in several state newspapers. The deadline for responses to the RFQ is April 16, 2009 at 5:00pm. There are a number of architectural firms that have expressed interest in this project, which will be a "green" building with an emphasis on LEED certification.
2. Mrs. Cobb reported that the Library Budget Request for FY2009-2010 is due to the Finance Director on February 18, 2009. Department Heads have been advised not to request any new staff or funding for new programs and services due to the current economic situation. For the Library, this is the first budget that will reflect the end of the three year contract with Chatham County Public Libraries. This will mean a loss of revenue of \$62,286 for staff salaries in Alamance County, previously paid by Chatham County. Following meetings with the Interim County Manager, the County Finance Director, and the Human Resources Director, Mrs. Cobb was advised to find the revenue shortfall by budget line reductions in the Alamance budget. She was given direct guidance from the Interim County Manager regarding the Library Courier position. Because book deliveries to

Chatham County will be discontinued, the Courier position will become a part-time position. Since Chatham County paid 42% of the Courier's salary, the Interim County Manager has advised that the Library will lose this full-time position. Mrs. Cobb has requested to replace this with two part-time positions. One Courier will work half-days on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The other Courier will work half-days on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday—adding a 6<sup>th</sup> day for deliveries. With this proposal, there will always be Courier backup if one is out sick or on vacation. Currently there is no backup for deliveries; the Library Director usually ends up filling in so that library deliveries can be made. The Courier position is more of a heavy lifting, delivery job than a regular library job. It is hoped that the current full-time Library Courier will be able to transfer to full-time employment with another County department. Chatham County has also been paying 23% of salaries for the Technical Services staff. When processing library materials for the new Elon Library begins, that workload will supplant the work performed by this staff for Chatham County. In the meantime, this staff will work on some special projects, including an inventory and database cleanup. Other Library budget lines have also been trimmed to accommodate the loss of revenue from Chatham County.

3. In her update on the Staff, Mrs. Cobb announced that Alamance County will have a new County Manager very soon. Craig Honeycutt is currently the City Manager for Laurinburg, NC and was unanimously selected by the Board of County Commissioners to be the next Manager. The Hiring Freeze was partially lifted on December 15, 2008. The Library has been able to fill 3 positions that were formally frozen. Rebekah Scott has been promoted to Librarian I at May Memorial Library, having received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from UNC-G in December 2008. Rebekah is now responsible for adult programming, in addition to other reference responsibilities. Rebekah's promotion resulted in some other staff changes; there are now two new part-time staff members in the Reference Department. The Mebane Public Library now has a Shelver position filled and also a Circulation Assistant II position filled. All of these changes still leaves 3 frozen part-time positions for the Library system: one at May Memorial, one at Graham, and one at Mebane.

4. With the downturn in the economy, use of public libraries in Alamance County continues to increase dramatically. Mrs. Cobb shared statistics comparing January 2008 to January 2009. Circulation has increased 9.5%; Door Counts are up 6%; and Computer Use has increased 4.8%. In addition, Mrs. Cobb provided Library Committee members with articles from The Times-News, the Raleigh News and Observer, and The Chatham News which discuss library usage being sharply increased due to the current economic situation.

5. Alamance Reads 2008-2009 has been more successful than ever before in encouraging our community to share discussion of the book, Blue, by Joyce Moyer Hostetter. More than 200 attended the Kickoff Celebration for Alamance Reads at the Paramount Theater. The Alamance Jazz Band entertained readers and dancers with big band music of the 1940's, with 138 attendees. The Urban Victory Garden Workshop at Cooperative Extension Services drew a crowd of 73 who received a gift bag complete with gardening tips, seeds, and a WWII cookbook. The 3-D Art Assemblage at the Graham Public Library was great fun for all and resulted in a remarkable art sculpture featuring items from Blue. Our community has learned much about polio and the "Miracle of Hickory" hospital from Dan Moury's presentation. The "Alamance: A County At War" program, with a reception for

the WWII veterans featured in the “Winter of Our Warriors” series, drew a crowd of 107 on Sunday afternoon at Elon University. From one end of Alamance County to the other, exhibits and programs have revolved around our third community read. Hundreds of copies of Blue have been purchased by readers; library patrons have checked the book out more than 500 times. Special thanks go to Lennie Stout and Margaret Blanchard for co-chairing Alamance Reads. Thanks also go out to the many individuals and committees who have worked so diligently to make the variety of programs so successful. Carlene Morton led an enjoyable book discussion at Alamance Community College. Special recognition also goes to the Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries who sponsor Alamance Reads. The Friends donated 250 copies of Blue to the Alamance/Burlington Schools. Mrs. Cobb reminded the Committee about upcoming programs, along with the Grand Finale at the Captain White House on February 28, 2009, 5:00-7:00pm. Author Joyce Hostetter will return for the Grand Finale of Alamance Reads.

6. The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale will be held at May Memorial Library, March 20-29, 2009. Linda Williamson and Laura Wright are the Spring Book Sale Co-Chairs. They plan to feature a Book Club section with book club favorite selections to generate interest at the sale.

7. Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2009 with the theme “Keep the Heart of Our Communities Beating Strong—Support Public Libraries.” The Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries have pledged \$500.00 for advocacy support and will provide lunch for any library supporters from Alamance County who wish to attend. Mrs. Cobb encouraged Library Committee members to attend Library Legislative Day.

8. National Library Week will be observed April 12-18, 2009. The theme is “Worlds Connect@Your Library.” Several special programs are planned, including an author visit by humorist Celia Rivenbark at May Memorial Library on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined that there was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Five -Year Plan Update. Mrs. Cobb shared the objectives that were accomplished during the past year, as outlined in the Library’s five year plan. The Building Program was completed for the new Elon Library. Wireless Internet Services have been implemented. Carlene Morton and Shirley Beyer attended the State Trustees’ Conference. Planning for the end of the contract with Chatham County Public Libraries was completed; the contract ends June 30, 2009. Following this, the Library Director reviewed new objectives for the Five Year Plan Update, including revision of the Circulation Policy; development of a Library Programming Policy; implementing new technology for Library answering machines, and improving Library security in all facilities. Mrs. Cobb requested approval of

**the Five-Year Plan update. Mary Dingeldein moved to approve the update. Carrie Thompson seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

**The date for the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at Mebane Public Library at 12 noon.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:55PM.**

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**Director and Secretary**