

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 18, 2009
PLACE: May Memorial Library
MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlene Morton, Kitty Hupman,
Shirley Beyer, Jo Grimley, Lennie Stout
Mary Dingeldein, Mike Cross, George Byrd
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Carrie Thompson and Tim Sutton
ALSO PRESENT: Judy Cobb

CALL TO ORDER

Following lunch, Chair Carlene Morton called the meeting to order at 12:20PM with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kitty Hupman moved and Shirley Beyer seconded approval of the minutes of the May 26, 2009 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cobb reported on the following items:

1. The Elon Board of Aldermen approved Jenkins~Peer, from Charlotte, NC, as the architectural firm to design the new library, at their June 9, 2009 meeting. Ben Benson, AIA, LEED AP, will be the Project Manager and Henry Myerberg, AIA, will also be principal in the Library's planning and design. A subcommittee of the Library Building Committee, Jo Grimley, Mike Dula, and Brad Moore have been working out the contract details. The Elon Board of Aldermen approved the Concept Design proposal at their August meeting. The Town of Elon is in the process of acquiring additional property at the park site. The Alamance News featured two recent articles, updating the new Library project, following the August meetings of the Board of Aldermen. Jo Grimley updated the Library Committee on the recent meeting of the Library Building Committee and the architects. Site considerations and sustainability options were both addressed. The conceptual design phase is ongoing with planned conference calls and meetings with the Library Building Committee which includes Judy Cobb; Jo Grimley; Beth Schmidt, Chair; Brad Moore; Steve Trogdon; Rick Kiser; Don Wagoner; and Mike Dula, Elon Town Manager. Mrs. Cobb read a letter from Jenkins~Peer summarizing the vision for the new Elon Library, in the park setting.
2. The Library budget of \$2,445,292 was approved for FY2009-2010. The disappointing news is that 3 part-time positions will continue to remain "frozen." The County Manager has asked Department Heads to reduce operational budgets again this year by 3% due to the revenue shortfall.
3. Mrs. Cobb reported that Jack Fessler, former Full-Time Library Courier, has transferred to a position with the Alamance County Health Department. The Library has since hired two Part-Time Library Couriers: James Oakley and Danny Richardson, who will work 12 hours per week each. Library deliveries have been

expanded to Saturdays and there is now “backup” if one of the Couriers is out, providing for daily deliveries to the libraries. On a related note, the Library Car has been updated after problems with the 1988 Chevrolet Celebrity. The County offered a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria to replace the Library Car.

4. Library statistics for the fiscal year just completed, July 2008-June 2009, demonstrate that circulation increased 10.7% systemwide, over the previous fiscal year. Book circulation is up 6.4%. DVD/Video circulation is up 22.6%. Door counts are up 6.3% and use of public computers is up 3.8%. By branch library, circulation has increased: May Memorial Library, 8%; Graham Public Library, 14%; Mebane Public Library, 10.5%; North Park Library, 17% and South Annex Library, 34%. Use of the South Annex Library continues to increase. Mrs. Cobb highlighted the number of children who attended Library programs last fiscal year: 26,253. Mike Cross suggested that the Library statistics be released to the media in a press release. He offered to assist Mrs. Cobb with preparing a press release and suggested that library statistics be compared from ten and five years ago, to emphasize the increases in public library usage. Mrs. Cobb agreed to provide the statistical information needed.

5. Mrs. Cobb reported on the highly successful Children’s Summer Reading program, “Be Creative @Your Library” held June 22-July 27, 2009. During the eight weeks surrounding the program, 43,642 children’s books were checked out from Alamance public libraries. Children’s summer programs totaled 216 and drew a crowd of 6,636 systemwide. The Friends of the Library sponsored some special programs: a storyteller at the Mebane Public Library entertained an audience of 78. The SciWorks program at the Graham Public Library was attended by 79 participants. At May Memorial Library, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Reptile & Amphibian program drew an enthusiastic crowd of 70.

6. The Adult Murder Mystery Night, “The Art of Murder,” was held at May Memorial Library on Friday evening, July 31, 2009 with an attendance of 42. Once again, for the third year in a row, this special after-hours program received rave reviews from attendees. This year, the Library staff wrote the script. The Friends of the Library provided special funding for refreshments, door prizes, and props.

7. Staff Development Day will be held at the Community Center at Beth Schmidt Park in Elon on Friday, September 18, 2009. The County Manager has given his permission to close all of the libraries for this annual day of staff training. Two guest speakers are scheduled. Doris Jessup, from the Greensboro Public Library, will address “Jobseekers & the Public Library” while Andrew Sanderbeck will present “Emotional Customer Service: Making the Connection with Patrons.” The Friends of the Library are sponsoring this training day. This will also be an opportunity for the staff to be introduced to the site of the new Elon Library.

8. The Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for September 11-20, 2009. The hours for the opening day, for members of the Friends of the Library only, are being changed for the first time in many years. This year, the hours have been extended from 1:00-7:00pm for Friends members. As always, visitors can join the Friends of the Library at the door to take advantage of the first day’s selections. The Friends are once again featuring “Alamance County Book Clubs Recommend”—a special section of local Book Club favorites. This proved to be a popular browsing area at the Spring Book Sale.

9. Alamance Reads author Joyce Hostetter will return to May Memorial Library on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 3:00pm, to talk about the sequel to *Blue*, entitled

Comfort. This special author program is being sponsored by the Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries. Mrs. Cobb announced that Co-chairs for the next Alamance Reads have been named: Carlene Morton and Linda Barron.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined that there was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Circulation Services Policy Revision.** Mrs. Cobb presented the revision to the Circulation Services Policy, already reviewed by both the County Attorney and the Assistant County Attorney. The proposed changes were outlined: Limit check-out items to 5 for new library cardholders. Require patron to pay the entire balance on library account when the library card is renewed. Increase the processing fee for lost items, from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Limit refunds on the return of lost and paid items to one year. Change definition of “adult” from 16 years to 17 years of age, since the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) defines 17 as adult. Mike Cross recommended two changes to the Circulation Services Policy as written. He suggested that the 30 day definition for a new cardholder be included in writing. Also the following text was added to “Loan Periods”: “High demand items may have a limited loan period.” Mary Dingeldein moved that the Circulation Services Policy be approved with these two changes. Lennie Stout seconded. The vote was unanimous. With the approval of the Library Committee, this policy will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners in September.
- 2. Gardner Library Trust--\$7500 for Wireless Upgrades.** Mrs. Cobb observed that the County MIS Department is recommending an upgrade of wireless access at the libraries to a more “robust” Cisco solution. She requested approval to designate an additional \$7500 from Gardner Library Trust funds for this project, noting that there is a balance of \$8700 remaining from the original amount approved for Wireless Access two years ago. Mrs. Cobb pointed out that 7,040 patrons accessed wireless services at our public libraries last fiscal year. Shirley Beyer moved that the \$7500 be approved for this project. Jo Grimley seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- 3. Alamance County Library Committee / Elon Representation Discussion.** Mrs. Cobb led discussion of adding two members from Elon to the Alamance County Library Committee, with plans for the new Elon Library underway. The General Statutes of North Carolina allow for a maximum of 12 library board members. The Library Committee reviewed the committee composition as determined in the current bylaws. Mrs. Cobb has discussed Elon representation on the Library Committee with County Administration. She plans to advise the Board of Commissioners that the Library Committee will address this at the annual meeting in November.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date for the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at May Memorial Library at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15PM.

Director and Secretary