

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 26, 2009
PLACE: Mebane Public Library
MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlene Morton, Kitty Hupman,
Shirley Beyer, Jo Grimley,
Carrie Thompson, and Lennie Stout
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: George Byrd, Mike Cross, Mary Dingeldein
and Tim Sutton
ALSO PRESENT: Judy Cobb

CALL TO ORDER

Following lunch, Chair Carlene Morton called the meeting to order at 12:15PM with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lennie Stout moved and Carrie Thompson seconded approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cobb reported on the following items:

1. Mrs. Cobb updated the Committee on the new public library to be built in Elon. There were 34 responses to the RFQ received by the April 16, 2009 deadline. A subcommittee of the Library Building Committee reviewed the documents to narrow the field to 7 architectural firms, based on a variety of factors, including experience with public library buildings and sustainability. The Elon Library Building Committee interviewed the 7 firms at the Community Center at Beth Schmidt Park on May 12th and May 13th. Following the interviews, the Committee pared the selection down to 3 possibilities. This information will be presented to the Elon Board of Aldermen at their regular meeting in early June. Jo Grimley reported that the Board of Aldermen will move forward to vote on the architectural recommendations in June. The Board hopes to take advantage of the current economic "window" of lower construction costs, with the timing of this project. Mrs. Cobb also noted the current total on reserve for new books and materials for the Elon Library. A recent donation from the Burlington Women's Club brings the total to \$168,156.60 for new books. There will be fundraising programs for the new building; there will likely be naming opportunities. Shirley Beyer has agreed to help a committee from Elon with fundraising. Mrs. Cobb plans to propose that the Friends of the Library help with more fundraising for new books, along with financial support of a particular part of the new Library building, as plans move forward.
2. Mrs. Cobb addressed the Library Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, FY2009-2010. Due to the loss of revenue from Chatham County, Mrs. Cobb made budget cuts as directed. Following these cuts, the County made additional cuts in the Library's request, including a 10% cut in the Library's travel and training

budget. When the cost of living increase for county employees was cut from the budget request, that left the local funding support for the Library for next year below the current year's level of funding. Mrs. Cobb met with the new County Manager and expressed concern about jeopardizing State Aid to Public Libraries funding. The Manager responded by restoring some of the previous cuts so that the Library Budget request for FY2009-2010 is .6% higher than the current year's budget. Mrs. Cobb noted that this is really not an increase because this budget absorbs some of the staff salary costs that Chatham County Public Libraries has paid previously. The Library Director has also received notice from the City of Burlington that the Community Development Grant for the North Park Library will be reduced from \$12,000 to \$10,000 for FY2009-2010. Yet, the Alamance County Public Library system is faring much better now than many other public library systems around the state which have been forced to furlough or lay off staff, reduce service hours, or even stop buying new books.

3. With the approval of the County Budget, the only negative for the Library is that the 3 frozen part-time positions will remain frozen until at least January 2010. Beginning July 1, 2009, there will also be a 90 day freeze on any new position vacancy. The Library will have to demonstrate alternate ways of fulfilling the duties of this position before requesting that the position be released for advertising. Every county position that becomes vacant will be evaluated. The County Manager indicates this is a cost-cutting measure intended to prevent staff layoffs due to the current economy.

4. The contract with Chatham County Public Libraries ends June 30, 2009. Chatham County Public Libraries migrated to a new automation system in late March and are setting up their own Technical Services Department to begin ordering and processing their own library materials. Mrs. Cobb reported that the records for Chatham County Library patrons have been purged from the Alamance database of library borrowers, along with catalog records for Chatham County library materials. Alamance County Public Libraries will continue to provide Courier Service for the Chatham County Public Libraries through June 30th. Library patrons wishing to use both Chatham County Public Libraries and Alamance County Public Libraries now need separate library cards for each county library system. The transition has gone relatively smoothly, considering how long these two counties have shared public library resources. Mrs. Cobb noted that there are some proposed changes to the Alamance County Public Libraries Circulation Policy that she would like the Library Committee to review at the August meeting. Once the Library Committee has approved the revision to the Circulation Policy, it will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners in September 2009. Mrs. Cobb has already mentioned the upcoming policy revision to the new County Manager, Craig Honeycutt.

5. The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale at May Memorial Library, March 20-29, 2009 raised \$33,124.50. Plans are underway for the Fall Book Sale to be held September 11-20, 2009. The Friends have donated \$24,000 from the Book Sale to be used for the purchase of audiovisual materials for the libraries.

6. Mrs. Cobb presented final attendance numbers for Alamance Reads. Program attendance totaled 1487. The book, *Blue*, was checked out 567 times at our public libraries. She provided Committee members with a spreadsheet comparing statistics from all of the Alamance Reads programs so far. This was the first year that website statistics were available for reporting: 2818 website visitors. Very

special thanks goes to Lennie Stout for co-chairing our third Alamance Reads with Margaret Blanchard. The Friends of the Library are currently seeking co-chairs for the next Alamance Reads. Plans are to invite author Joyce Hostetter for a return visit since the sequel to *Blue*, entitled *Comfort*, has now been published.

7. Library Legislative Day, held February 25, 2009, was a good opportunity for Alamance County Library supporters to meet with our legislators. Carrie Thompson represented the Library Committee. Susan Gant, Friends of the Library President, along with Friends of the Library Board members Pat Joyner and Ed Burgess attended. With all of the state's economic woes, the amount of State Aid to Public Libraries for next year remains uncertain.

8. National Library Week was observed April 12-18, 2009 with the theme "Worlds Connect@Your Library." Several special programs were held, including an author visit by humorist Celia Rivenbark at May Memorial Library that drew an audience of 38. All available copies of the author's books were sold at the program which was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

9. The Children's Summer Reading Program will kick off June 22 and run through July 27, 2009. This year's theme is "Be Creative@Your Library." Each child who participates will receive a book bag, reading record, and activity sheets. Mrs. Cobb provided samples of the Summer Reading materials for the Committee members. The Friends of the Library are funding the "SciWorks" program at the Graham Public Library and a storyteller at the Mebane Public Library. The NC Museum of Science will present "Reptiles & Amphibians" at May Memorial Library. For adults, the Friends of the Library are sponsoring the third Murder Mystery Night at May Memorial Library on Friday, July 31, 2009 at 7:00pm. Free tickets to participate in this interactive "Who Done It" will be available in early July. This program, afterhours in the Library, has proven to be a very popular program for would-be crime solvers.

10. Along with other County departments, the Library launched a newly designed website on April 3, 2009. The website address remains the same, but the website has been greatly enhanced. Mrs. Cobb encouraged Committee members to visit the new website: www.alamancelibraries.org. One new county requirement for the website is that the names of the Library Committee members, their geographic area of representation, and their terms be posted along with the meeting dates and minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined that there was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Terms Expiring-George Byrd, Jr., Michael Cross, Jo Grimley, Carlene Morton, Carrie Thompson. Mrs. Cobb reported that all of these Library Committee members have requested to be reappointed for another term. The names have been forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for approval at the June 1, 2009 meeting.

- 2. Programming Policy. Mrs. Cobb expressed the need for a written Program Policy to give Library staff guidance in planning Library programs. The policy emphasizes that proposed programs should relate to the Library's mission. The Programming Policy will also provide explanation to the public for why particular programs are offered at the Library, while others are not. Kitty Hupman made the motion to approve the Programming Policy. Shirley Beyer seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date for the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at the Graham Public Library at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:10PM.

Director and Secretary