

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 18, 2008
PLACE: North Park Library / Sertoma Building
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Dingeldein, Carlene Morton,
Kitty Hupman, Shirley Beyer,
Carrie Thompson and Lennie Stout
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mike Cross, Jo Grimley, and Tim Sutton
ALSO PRESENT: Judy Cobb

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carrie Thompson moved and Lennie Stout seconded approval of the minutes of the August 12, 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. After several months of discussion, the Board of Aldermen, Town of Elon voted on November 11, 2008 to choose Beth Schmidt Park as the location for the new library. The Elon Town Hall overflowed that evening, with public library supporters expressing their concerns, pro and con, for the two locations being considered. The vote was 3-2 in favor of the Park location over the Williamson Avenue site proposed by Elon University. On the heels of this decision, President of The Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries, John Stubblefield, formally announced the Friends' pledge of \$50,000 for books for the new Elon Public Library at the County Commissioners' meeting on November 17, 2008. The next step will be for the Town of Elon to select an architect for the new Library.
2. Mrs. Cobb announced that the County Manager has asked Department Heads to reduce budgeted expenditures by 2%. For the Library, that means a budget reduction of \$48,593, from a budget that is already pretty lean. State Aid to Public Libraries is also being reduced by 2%. In an effort to save the book/materials budget, the Library will trim other budget lines, including supplies and travel/training. May Memorial Library will likely discontinue security guard service, January – June 2009, as the hourly rate for an off-duty Burlington Police officer increases by 25% beginning January 1st. This increase cannot be justified when other budget lines must be cut.
3. In her update on the Library Staff, Mrs. Cobb reported that Dawn-Michelle Oliver had resigned as Branch Manager of the Graham Public Library due to the illness of her husband. Becky Peterson, Reference Librarian at May Memorial Library since January 2006 has been promoted to the position of Branch Manager at Graham. As soon as this promotion was effected, the County Manager

announced a second hiring freeze. There are 3 library positions still frozen since April 1, 2008 (1 at May Memorial; 2 at Mebane). With the second hiring freeze, the Library added two more frozen positions—the Librarian I position at May Memorial and a Shelver at Mebane. The Libraries now have a total of 5 frozen positions. The Graham Public Library has a full staff, but both May Memorial Library and the Mebane Public Library are short 65 staff hours per week at each location. Mrs. Cobb noted that she is committed to continuing hours of operation and current programs with less staff, but will initiate no new programs or services until the frozen positions can be filled.

4. Record numbers of voters came to May Memorial Library to take advantage of Early Voting, October 16-November 1, 2008. A total of 10,685 people voted at May Memorial. Library statistics are up for this time period, with many voters deciding to also visit the Library.

5. A copy of the Alamance Reads brochure was provided for each Library Committee member present, listing all of the programs for January and February. Lennie Stout is Co-Chair for Alamance Reads, along with Margaret Blanchard. Carlene Morton will conduct the Book Discussion program at ACC. Alamance Reads will kickoff programming on January 22nd at 7:00pm at the Paramount Theater with a visit by Joyce Hostetter, author of Blue.

6. The Friends of the Library Book Sale was held at May Memorial Library, September 5-14, 2008. The Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries raised \$30,323.00 from the September Book Sale. The Friends have purchased and installed new carpeting for the Book Sale area and have already started work sorting books for the upcoming Spring Book Sale, set for March 20-29, 2009.

7. Mrs. Cobb attended the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Sally Reed, Executive Director of Friends of Libraries USA, was the guest speaker. Ms. Reed emphasized the need for Friends of the Library members and Library Trustees to unite their voices to advocate for public libraries. She remarked that there will be a rough road ahead for libraries across the country, with cutbacks already being announced. Sally Reed said that libraries are at risk and Friends of the Library support will be needed more than ever before.

8. Information was shared regarding the digitization project, “Transforming the Tar Heel State,” coordinated by the State Library / North Carolina State Archives. Mrs. Cobb provided a handout with information about historical photos relating to public libraries in North Carolina. The website may be searched by county to see old photos of the bookmobile in Alamance County, May Memorial Library, and the old Mebane Public Library. Lisa Kobrin, Local History Librarian at May Memorial Library, participated in this project. She also submitted the 1947 photo of the Elon Community Library that was a focal point for the presentation to the County Commissioners in August 2007, in support of the new public library in Elon.

9. Mrs. Cobb provided some preliminary statistics for wireless services, funded by the Gardner Library Trust. Daily averages for wireless users: 10.8-Graham; 6.5-May Memorial; 4.6- Mebane. Mrs. Cobb reported that some technical problems have resulted in the lower usage numbers for the headquarters library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined that there was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Election of Officers- Chair and Vice-Chair.** Shirley Beyer made the motion to elect Carlene Morton as Chair of the Library Committee. The motion was seconded by Lennie Stout. The vote was unanimous. Shirley Beyer then moved that Carrie Thompson be elected Vice-Chair. Lennie Stout seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- 2. Gardner Library Trust / Elon Library.** Mrs. Cobb reported that the 2008 Gardner Library Trust distribution is \$38,008.94. She requested approval to designate these funds for books for the new public library in Elon. Currently, \$79,397.66 has been designated for new books for the Elon Public Library. Adding the 2008 distribution of Gardner Library Trust funds would bring the total to \$117,406.60. This total does not yet include the pledge of \$50,000 for books from the Friends of the Library which will raise the total donations to \$167,406.60. Lennie Stout made the motion to approve the 2008 Gardner Library Trust distribution for books for the new Elon Library. Carrie Thompson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:05PM.

Director and Secretary