

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Carlene Morton, Jo Grimley, Shirley Beyer, Kitty Hupman, M.J. Goodrum

Absent: Mike Cross, George Byrd, Jr., Lennie Stout, Carrie Thompson, Mary Dingeldein, and Tim Sutton

The meeting was moved to M.J.'s office because the meeting room at May Memorial was so cold.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Because there wasn't a quorum to approve the minutes, they were accepted pending approval at the next scheduled meeting

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

1. The Summer Reading Program theme this year was "Make A Splash". During the months of June and July 42,746 children's books were checked out. The top circulating book was Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. The most popular programs were about Pirates, Down in the Swamp and the various special entertainers such as The Grey Seal Puppets and the Bathtub Pirates at May Memorial, Bright Star Theater's production of the Ugly Duckling in Graham, and Jeff Robbins' musical performance on various instruments he or his father made. This year we had our first ever program at South Annex and it was very well received.

2. National Library Card Sign-Up Month is in September. We will offer drawings for three \$25.00 gift cards to Barnes and Noble.

3. Staff Development Day will be on Friday, September 24 at the Kernodle Senior Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The morning sessions will focus on stress relief, getting along with each other, and how to cope with difficult patrons and situations. In the afternoon there will be a webinar by a company called Overdrive that provides a subscription service for downloadable audio, ebooks, video and music. Members from the Library Board are invited to attend this webinar.

4. Playaways are a new format that the library began offering patrons this summer. It is a single book already downloaded onto an MP3 player. Patrons may check them out for three weeks at a time. They have been very popular and are flying off the shelf. M.J. showed an example of one. Patrons are responsible for providing their own earbuds and AAA batteries. Each branch has a collection and we will be adding the collections each month. The fine for a lost or damaged Playaway is \$55.00. This will need to be added to our fines and fees schedule.

5. Friends Fall Book Sale is September 10 – September 21. M.J. passed out the flyer with information regarding the sale. The Friends newsletter will come out next month and includes an article on the new Friends website and an article about how Friends spent some of their money.

6. The Western Branch situation was discussed. M.J. shared information from a meeting requested by Mayor Tolley and City Manager Mike Dulla when she asked for a meeting with the building committee. A letter that Mayor Tolley wrote discussing the Town's support of the library and M.J.'s response to Mayor Tolley was read. Mayor Tolley has stated that there can be no fundraising in the name of the Town towards the Western Alamance Branch. M.J. has been directed by her supervisor to do nothing to forward the movement a Western Alamance Branch until Mr. Tolley gives the go-ahead. She reminded the Board that \$35,083.04 had been approved from the Gardner Trust Fund for books for this branch in November 2009. County Manager Craig Honeycutt has suggested just sitting on that money until it's needed. M.J. will continue to pursue starting up a Foundation in support of Alamance County Public Libraries. The need for expansion in South Annex was discussed at some length.

7. Alamance Reads will have its first program committee meeting on Thursday, August 19 in Graham. The title of the book is scheduled to be announced on October 6.

8. Election of officers will be held for the Library Board at the next meeting, scheduled for November.
9. Child Sex Offenders in the libraries has become an issue and M.J. is working with Captain Putnam, of the Mebane Police, and the County Assistant District Attorney to see if libraries fall under the North Carolina General statute about where registered child sex offenders can and cannot go. If the Captain and the Assistant District Attorney feel that libraries fit under this statute, a certified letter will be sent to all registered child sex offender permanently banning them from the libraries.

10. LSTA

11. The Gardner Trust Fund annual payment will come out this fall. M.J. asked Board members to considering the purchase of self-checkout units with this money. Three positions that had been frozen previously were cut in this year's budget and each branch is short staffed because of this. Self-checkout machines would help with this. M.J. and Martha Sink will put together figures to present to the board at their next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Review 2010-2011 Budget:** M.J. handed out copies of the approved library budget. No cuts were made to the materials budget. While some cuts did have to be made in other areas, she tried to preserve materials and the request for additional security guard areas.
- 2. Statistics for 2009-2010:** Most libraries saw an increase in circulation and all of them saw an increase in the number of people coming to the library. The most impressive was South Annex, which more than doubled its numbers. It saw an increase of 123.4% in circulation and an increase of 113.6% in number of people visiting.
- 3. LSTA Laptop Lab Grant:** Alamance County Public Libraries was awarded an LSTA grant for a mobile laptop. It requires \$7,388.00 in matching local funds.
- 4. Update on CISCO/MetroE wireless project:** Last year the Board approved money from the Gardner Trust fund to be spent on Cisco equipment to be able to go wireless at Graham, Mebane, May Memorial and North Park. This has been purchased but not put in place at this time. The County MIS is in the process of switching its firewall to CISCO and this has to be done before our CISCO system can be installed. In addition the CISCO project, a MetroE line has been purchased to replace two T1 lines at May Memorial. This will give us more, much needed bandwidth to push our automation system out to the other branches.

FUTURE MEETING DATES: Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16th.

ADJOURNMENT: Carlene adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
M.J. Goodrum
Director of Alamance County Public Libraries