

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE
Minutes

Regular Meeting
May Memorial Public Library

Tuesday February 19, 2013
12 Noon

Present: Mary Dingeldein, Lennie Stout, Jo Grimley, Carlene Morton, Mike Cross, Kitty Hupman, Shirley Beyer, George Byrd, Jr., Tim Sutton

Absent: Carolyn Allen

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Mike Cross, Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- There were no public comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting of the Library Committee be accepted. This motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- MJ reviewed the Library budget requests for fiscal year 2013-2014. Increases included funding for a van to replace the current one, which has over 170,000 miles on it, additional personnel (including un-freezing an existing position), and increasing the amount allocated for materials.
- MJ and Library staff have been working closely with the Friends of the Library on the current Alamance Reads. This year's book is To Kill a Mockingbird and the programs presented so far have been very successful.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business from the previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Statewide Annual statistics:** MJ handed out copies of the North Carolina State Library's statistical report for fiscal year 2011-2012. She then walked Board members through each of the tables, drawing attention to comparisons between Davidson, Randolph, Rowan and Alamance Counties.
- **Electronic Cigarettes:** MJ shared several articles relating to the use of e-cigarettes. The issue came up recently when a patron was smoking one inside the library at Graham. Item #7 in the Alamance County Public Libraries' Behavior Policy states that "Smoking, or any other use of tobacco products in the library or within 10 feet of the library entrance" is prohibited. The Board suggested that it

be re-written to include prohibiting e-cigarettes. MJ will bring a revised draft to the Board at the next meeting for their approval.

- **Meeting Room Policy:** An issue came up regarding use of the meeting rooms by a homeschool group that belongs to a the Zoo Club, a club requiring membership fees. They were interested in having the Zoo Club do a program, using the meeting space at Mebane Public Library. Both the Branch Manager and MJ turned their application down on the grounds that it was a violation of the meeting room policy. Ms. Simmons had been told in August that she would not be allowed to use the room again for this purpose, after she received a waiver for the program in September. The Library staff feels that the required membership fee for this program violates the part of the policy stating that the meeting spaces are available free of charge to “Community groups that have open membership that are non-profit ...”. Ms. Simmons feels that, since the program is open to anyone that is interested in attending, in addition to her homeschool group, she should be allowed to have the program at the Library. MJ has brought it to the Library Board for their recommendation since the encounter with Ms. Simmons was so unpleasant and MJ wanted to be sure that she was being fair. Ms. Simmons arrived too late to speak during the public comment, but was available for comment during this discussion. She pointed out that other groups that have a paid membership (daycares, Reviewer’s club, homeowner’s associations) are allowed to meet. MJ pointed out that the daycare programs are library sponsored programs, the Reviewer’s Club was instrumental in getting a Mebane Library started, and that homeowner’s associations are no longer allowed access to Library meeting space. The Board recommended that Ms. Simmons be allowed to have her program at the Library, as long as it was open to anyone that wanted to attend. The recommendation was also made that the Meeting room application be revised to include the maximum number of occupants.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Committee members were reminded that the next meeting of The Library Committee will be on May 21 at May Memorial Library at noon.

The meeting was then adjourned.