

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 17, 2009
PLACE: May Memorial Library
MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlene Morton, Carrie Thompson, Kitty Hupman, Shirley Beyer, Jo Grimley, Lennie Stout, Mike Cross, George Byrd, and Tim Sutton
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mary Dingeldein
ALSO PRESENT: Judy Cobb

CALL TO ORDER

Following lunch, Chair Carlene Morton called the meeting to order at 12:10PM with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Cross moved and Shirley Beyer seconded approval of the minutes of the August 18, 2009 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cobb reported on the following items:

1. The conceptual design and schematic design of the new Elon branch library have moved forward through the work of the architects and the Library Building Committee. On November 30, 2009, at the 6:00pm Agenda meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Jenkins~Peer will present detailed information about the exterior design of the proposed Library and the floor plan. Mrs. Cobb invited all members of the Library Committee to attend this important meeting and see the plans first-hand from the architects. In addition to the building design plans, cost estimates will be presented to the Board of Aldermen. It looks as if the current economic situation may impact the timetable for the construction of the new branch in Elon, but fundraising will move forward. Mrs. Cobb stated that the design for the new Library is very exciting and, in her opinion, is exactly what the community needs to see in order to begin fundraising for the building. Shirley Beyer has agreed to help with coordinating fundraising efforts for the Elon Library Building Campaign. The Friends of Alamance County Public Libraries worked with the Town of Elon to mail a fundraiser envelope, Buy-A-Book for the Elon Library, in the October issue of the Elon Town newsletter. The goal of this project is to raise funds for the book collections needed. A donation of \$25.00 for one book will place a bookplate in the donor's name, or in memory or honor of someone, in a new book in the future Elon Library. A donation of \$50.00 buys two books with bookplates, \$75.00 buys 3 books. Donations of \$500.00 or more will be recognized with a plaque in the new Library. So far, the Friends of the Library have received \$1750.00 in donations for the Elon Buy-A-Book fundraiser. The wording on the envelope is generic enough that the envelope can continue to be used to raise funds for books beyond the opening of the new Library.

2. Mrs. Cobb provided an update on the Library Staff. Three part-time positions remain frozen—one at May Memorial Library, one at the Graham Public Library, and one at the Mebane Public Library. She indicated that it's likely these positions will remain frozen through this budget year, due to revenue shortfalls. The Library has been able to advertise for two more recent part-time vacancies at May Memorial and at Mebane, with the approval of the County Manager. There are two vacancies for Library Shelves, one at May Memorial Library and one at the Graham Public Library that were frozen for 90 days, but will be filled very shortly.

3. The Friends of the Library annual September Book Sale reached an all-time record breaking profit of \$35,909.96, not counting new memberships. The extended hours for the first day of the Book Sale, along with changes in weekday sale hours, were very well received. As always, this volunteer group does an amazing job of raising supplemental funds to support the public libraries in Alamance County. The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries were recognized by the Board of County Commissioners on October 19, 2009 when they proclaimed October 18-24, 2009 as Friends of the Library Week in Alamance County. On Saturday, October 24th, Friends of the Library President, Susan Gant, and Mrs. Cobb attended the Annual Meeting of the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries. At that state meeting, the Friends of the Library received the Frances Reid "Honorable Mention" award for the most recent Alamance Reads program that Lennie Stout co-chaired with Margaret Blanchard. Barbara Roberts received an "Honorable Mention" award as Volunteer of the Year at the annual state meeting. Mrs. Cobb passed around the framed Proclamation and the Reid award, for the Library Committee to view.

The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries will celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2010. Plans are to invite all elected officials, former Friends of the Library Board members, all Friends of the Library, and the general public to a birthday party to kick off a year of celebration. Mrs. Cobb asked the Library Committee members to save the date of Sunday, January 10, 2010, 2:00-4:00pm, at May Memorial Library, for this very special event. Invitations will be mailed in a few weeks.

4. Plans for the fourth Alamance Reads are underway with Carlene Morton and Linda Barron as Co-Chairs. Kate Hickey and Jean Anderson will co-chair the Book Selection process. Book selection for the next Alamance Reads will be conducted a little differently from years past. A core group of 10 readers will pre-select titles to be presented to the larger Book Selection Committee. Rebekah Scott, Adult Programming Librarian, will represent the public libraries in the core group. Plans are to select the next Alamance Reads title by April 1, 2010. Program planning around the book will follow, with programs scheduled for early 2011. The Friends of the Library sponsored an Alamance Reads Encore program with author Joyce Moyer Hostetter on Sunday, November 15th. The author spoke about her sequel to the recent Alamance Reads selection, *Blue*, entitled *Comfort*. There were 37 in attendance for this encore Alamance Reads program. Carlene Morton invited Library Committee members to submit suggestions for titles to be considered for the next Alamance Reads.

5. Mrs. Cobb reported that she has been working with Dr. Jean Rohr at Elon University on a collaborative project with May Memorial Library, for the last few weeks. Dr. Rohr received a grant to provide transportation, bringing Elon University Education students to May Memorial Library to tutor struggling elementary school readers. Elementary students from several of the area schools, who are needing assistance with reading skills, are being tutored one-on-one by the University students. Mrs. Cobb noted that it's been heartwarming to see the students spread out all over the Library for two hours every Wednesday evening for several weeks. This project is having a "ripple" effect for families of struggling readers as parents have been informed about library resources and services, and siblings of struggling readers find books to look at while their brother or sister is being tutored. Dr. Rohr is looking into the possibility of continuing this successful collaboration year-round.

6. May Memorial Library has been selected as a potential site for one of 15 JobSearch Centers in North Carolina. The State Library is seeking federal funds for this project, to be matched by funds from the Gates Foundation. If the State Library's proposal is successful, May Memorial Library will receive 9 netbook computers with wireless access so that jobseekers can work individually in the Library to use online resources. It is hope that this program can be implemented mid-late 2010. No local funds would be required to establish the program.

7. May Memorial Library is now hosting the "Telling Our Stories" Photo Exhibit on tour through the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The exhibit includes images from some of the state's best professional photographers, top winners of *Our State Magazine's* 2008 photography contest and photos from the North Carolina State Archives. "Telling Our Stories" is on display in and around Meeting Room B, from November 16-December 6, 2009. It will then travel to the Durham County Public Library.

8. Mrs. Cobb announced her retirement effective January 1, 2010, with her last day at the Library being December 23, 2009. She stated that she had thoroughly enjoyed her 32 years of library work, including public, college, and elementary school librarianship. She expressed that her work in public libraries had definitely been the most fun. She thanked the Library Committee members for their support and for what has been accomplished in the last four years. She presented the Committee with "Highlights of Library Accomplishments, 2006-2009" that has also been shared with the County Manager. Mrs. Cobb pointed out the two most major accomplishments of the last four years: 1) the dissolution of the two-county regional library system, with the creation of the single-county system, Alamance County Public Libraries, and 2) the approval of a new library branch to serve western Alamance County, with work in progress on the new library to be built in Elon. Mrs. Cobb reported that the Library Director position is being advertised through the State Library of North Carolina and the Alamance County Government website. She has recommended that one or two from the Library Committee be invited to sit in on the interviews for the new Library Director—likely the Chair and/or Vice-Chair. She promised to keep the Library Committee informed as the search for a new Library Director goes forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Alamance County Library Committee / Elon Representation Discussion.**
Mrs. Cobb has spoken to the County Manager regarding the addition of official Elon representation on the Library Committee. Since construction of the Elon Library will not likely start immediately, the recommendation is to wait to change the bylaws at the next annual meeting. The County Manager suggested unofficial, non-voting representatives could be added to the Library Committee from Elon, as an option in the meantime. Mrs. Cobb recommended no changes to the Library Committee at this time, but advised that this be discussed at the November 2010 Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Gardner Library Trust - \$10,000.00 match for LSTA Grant / Laptop Lab.**
Mrs. Cobb informed the Library Committee that a Letter of Intent to apply for an LSTA Technology Grant has been submitted to the State Library. The grant would be used to purchase a Laptop Lab that can be used for both public library training classes and staff training. Later, there will be notification as to whether this project will move forward in the formal application stage of LSTA Grants. If this project is approved, it will require a 25% match of local funds. Mrs. Cobb requested the approval of the Library Committee to use up to \$10,000.00 of Gardner Library Trust funds, in reserve, for the match needed if the LSTA Technology Grant is successful. Shirley Beyer moved that up to \$10,000.00 of the Gardner Library Trust funds be used for the grant match. Lennie Stout seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- 2. Gardner Library Trust - \$35,083.04 for books / Elon Library.**
Mrs. Cobb reminded the Library Committee of her pledge to the Board of County Commissioners to defray the cost of collections needed for the new Elon Library. She requested that the 2009 distribution from the Gardner Library Trust, in the amount of \$35,083.04, be added to the reserve fund for books for the new Elon Library. She remarked that books purchased for opening day collections for the new Elon Library will be available for borrowing by all Alamance County Library patrons. Kitty Hupman made the motion that the \$35,083.04 distribution of the Gardner Library Trust be used to purchase books for the new Elon Library. Carrie Thompson seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- 3. Election of Officers – Chair and Vice Chair.**
Shirley Beyer made the motion that the current Chair, Carlene Morton, and Vice Chair, Carrie Thompson, serve a second term. Mike Cross seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date for the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at the Graham Public Library at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM.

Director and Secretary