

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**Regular Meeting
May Memorial Public Library**

**Tuesday May 21, 2013
12 Noon**

Minutes

Present: Carolyn Allen, Shirley Beyer, George Byrd, Jr., Mary Dingeldein, Jo Grimley, Carlene Morton, Lennie Stout, M.J. Wilkerson, Bryan Hagood (guest)

Absent: Mike Cross, Tim Sutton

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm

There were no public comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

The Board of County Commissioners met last night and heard the County Manager's recommended budget proposal for fiscal year 2013-2014. The proposal did not include any of the staffing increases that the Library had requested other than unfreezing the currently frozen part-time position at May Memorial. It also did not include funding for the purchase of a new van. Ours currently has over 170,000 miles on it and is essential to library services as it shuffles materials across the county from branch to branch. Requests for funding to pay for additional bandwidth at Mebane and other contractual services were left in the budget, as well as an additional \$30,000 for books. The County Manager's recommended budget did include a tax increase of 3.5 cents, bringing property taxes up from 52 cents per \$100 to 55.5 cents per \$100. This tax increase would cover a 5% COLA raise for all county employees, among other things.

The City of Burlington met to discuss their budget and has proposed an increase of \$16,000 for a total of \$26,000 to North Park from the Community Development Block Grant. The \$16,000 will be used for downloadable books and ebooks.

Library staff is stretched thin, trying to keep up with the level of service and maintenance of hours, in spite of staff cuts from 3 years ago and having frozen positions since then as well. At one point I had to make the decision to close North Park for the day because I didn't have enough staff to cover it. Graham continues to operate at a higher level than staff can handle on an extended basis. The staff increases requested in next year's budget had been designated to cover a second service desk at Graham Public Library. We are exploring ways to help alleviate some of the pressure at Graham, where we have only 8 people on staff for the busiest of our branches. One option may be to bring May Memorial's hours in line with Graham and Mebane, closing at 8:00 Monday

and Tuesday (rather than 9:00) and at 6:00 Wednesday – Saturday, and opening an hour later on Sundays so that Sunday hours are 2:00 – 5:00. This would help May Memorial deal with the loss of staffing hours from cut positions and give Graham more staff to handle their work load. May Memorial would still continue to stay open on Sundays in the summer months when the other branches are closed.

Debbie is retiring in the middle of June. We have posted the position and have started getting applications in.

I was contacted by a lawyer handling the estate of a former patron of ours. Mr. Charles “Bill” Dixon died last June. He had been coming to May Memorial since the 70s to look up stock information and check out books to read. He left the Libraries \$100,000 from his estate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Behavior Policy revision:** It was moved and accepted to change item #7 on the Behavior Policy read “Smoking, or any use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, in the library or within 10 feet of the library entrance”. This revision was made to address the issue of electronic cigarettes in libraries.
- 2) **Meeting room Policy revision:** MJ needed clarification on the Board’s wishes regarding posting meeting room capacity on the meeting room policy. It was decided to include those capacities to the application rather than having separate policies for each branch. Board members suggested that we develop a policy for use of small study rooms.

NEW BUSINESS

ACPL Foundation: I have been working to set up a Library Foundation and would like to use the money that Mr. Dixon donated to Alamance County Public Libraries as seed money for the Foundation. I am meeting with the Director of Durham County Public Library and one of the founding members of the Durham County Public Library Foundation on May 28th to gather information that I hope will be helpful in starting a Foundation for our libraries. There was some discussion on ways that a Foundation could help by raising money for additional branches, renovations, special collections, etc.

Spotlight on Summer Reading Program: Each year Alamance County Public Libraries offer a Summer Reading Program based on a national theme. Programs are held for children, teens and adults over a six week period. Last year, during the 6 week Summer Reading Program, we held 251 children’s programs which were attended by 6,416 people and 34 Teen programs, attended by 251 teens. During this same period, we circulated 59,869 children’s books and 7,900 young adult books. Each year, as part of the Summer Reading Program we offer a mystery night for adults. It’s a free program, but patrons must reserve their space by getting a ticket for the event. Mystery Night is so popular that the 50 tickets usually are ‘sold out’ by the end of the day they are made available. This year Mystery Night is being offered on two nights instead of one.

This year’s Children’s SRP theme is “Dig into Reading”. Between June 17 and July 27 branches will hold weekly programs featuring dinosaurs, Egyptology, gardening, caves, caverns and crevasses. Summer Reading Program will kick-off with a concert by

Big Bang Book at the Mebane Arts and Community Center. Throughout the summer we will have special programs by Bright Star Theatre, Flow Circus and Zelnick the Magician. Even South Annex will be in on the fun this year, with a summer matinee each week and a performance by Bright Star Theater. Families are invited to bring a picnic to the Bright Star performance at Snow Camp.

The Teen theme is “Beneath the Surface” and there will be weekly programs at May Memorial, Graham, and Mebane. These programs will include crafts, gaming and movies.

Adults won’t be left out this year, either. They will be invited to attend a variety of special programs around the theme of “Groundbreaking Reads”, as well as participate in a reading contest. The contest consists of filling out an ACPL review form for each book that they read between June 23 and July 26. Each week a drawing will be held from the previous week’s forms and prizes will be handed out. Of course we are also offering our annual Mystery Night, this year titled “Dig into Murder”. This event is for adults only and tickets will be made available on July 1.

Future Dates: Board members were reminded that the next meeting is August 20, 2013 at May Memorial at 12:00 noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm