Minutes of lib board 2009 03 19

Orange County Public Library
Board of Trustee
Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Orange County Public Library met Thursday, March 19, 2009,at 5:15 PM in the meeting room of the main library.

Present were chairperson Joan McClung, vice-chair Marcia Poole, John Floyd, Gill Likins, Pete Rainey, Wally Rosheim, and Library Director Katie Hill. Regrets were received from Judy Peterson and Pat LaLand. Absent were Patricia Seward and secretary Ann Bledsoe. Mr. Floyd was assigned to take minutes.

Minutes from November 20, 2008, December 8, 2008, and January 15, 2009, were received and filed, as revised. It was noted that the Board of Supervisors will be posting minutes from all board appointed committees on the Orange County website.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to a copying oversight the financial report was not available for review but Ms. Hill noted that the library's in-house report was reconciling well with the county's report format.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Ms. Hill elaborated on items in the librarian's report.

The adult reading program had concluded and went well. There was a slight reduction in total number of participants and the total number of books read over last year's inaugural program but overall it was well received and enjoyed.

The therapy dogs that will be in the library for programs are licensed and their presence in the building has been approved by public works.

The family movie night held March 14 attracted 17 people, a huge increase over the January and February attendance (0 and 0, respectively). Ms. Hill noted that the showing of a live action as opposed to a cartoon feature might have accounted for the much greater interest.

It was noted that elementary school age craft programs have proven difficult to facilitate in the past because of the diverse age range and skill level of would-be participants who show up (kindergarteners through fifth grade).

The Wilderness branch suffered a burglary resulting in a need to evaluate a policy, which the board undertook as new business. It was noted public works had cleaned up following the break-in.

Bid packets for the Gordonsville branch library project still have not gone out but must be ready as Ms. Hill noted she had received a copy. A grant for $17,400 from the William Cooke Foundation was received, earmarked for a circulation desk. The total fund raising effort for the Gordonsville branch library project stands at $279,000 plus a few small checks not yet added into that total.

Overall, budget cuts are happening, almost certainly, as per the county administrator's recommendations. Staggered library closures will be scheduled but fulltime staff will be coming in and working as necessary to meet their 40 hours per week obligations. Savings will be realized through part-time (hourly) wages. The library may not be able to replace the short staff situation created by the retiring of an aide at the Main Library but has been permitted to replace a departed staff member at the Gordonsville branch because of the critically small staff at the branch.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Hill referred the board to an internet link to the proposed budget on the county website. She noted that the county administrator's office has not asked for a line item budget or any justifications from departments, as per normal. Because the library wasn't asked for input this may result in lots of line item transfers and Ms. Hill asked for the board's understanding in this regard.

NEW BUSINESS

Following the break-in at the Wilderness branch and the suspected involvement of a court-appointed community service volunteer staff reviewed the library volunteer policy, specifically as it regards those appointed by the courts. Accepting volunteers is seen as serving a community need, however, the following concerns were raised: the count-appointed volunteers use up rather than free up staff time because they must be prepared for, they often "no show," they require extensive supervision, and some have actually disrupted collections by massively mis-shelving material, seemingly on purpose. Further, the library has received violent offenders as volunteers dispute requesting they not because of the proximity to the staff and public including children at which the volunteers much work. Finally, it was noted that court-appointed volunteers displace altruistic volunteers and that the library could schedule National Honor Society Volunteers if not for the court-appointed ones. Hearing these concerns, the board agreed to revise the policy regarding library volunteers. Mr. Rosheim motioned that the policy be revised to read "Court-appointed community service volunteers are not accepted at the libraries." Ms. Poole seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Hill reported that the trail basis of amending the general rules of the library system to permit covered beverages appeared successful and asked that the change be made permanent. Following discussion, Mr. Floyd motioned that the policy be changed to read: "No food may be consumed in the public areas of the library except in the library meeting rooms. Covered beverages will be allowed in the libraries." Mr. Rainey seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Hill offered further updates on the Gordonsville branch library project. The architect had been late in making his changes but the bid packages are finally assembled and Public Works will advertise the project for 30 days. The county administrator has approved putting it out for bid at the larger size building. About $150,000 of the donations received (over half) had stipulated they were for building the larger building. The plans call for stained glass windows and a few other upgrades but mostly it's a budget building. While being developed a few years ago, the project was projected at $145 per square foot at time when $200 per square foot was normal for similar construction projects. Ms. McClung noted that that while a Gordonsville branch library project committee had been constituted early in the project planning process their input had not been sought of late and the committee was essentially bypassed in the end. Ms. Hill agreed to keep the trustees appraised of when the project goes before the board of supervisors because community support for the project will be very important.

The meeting of the library board of trustees is scheduled for May 21, 2009.