

Kettleson Memorial Library Board Commission Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2008

Location: Davis Room in Harrigan Centennial Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Ledford called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Curt Ledford, Jan Love, Jane Eidler and Alice Johnstone.

Staff Present: Cheryl Pearson, Library Director.

Guests: None.

Quorum: Yes.

Members Absent: Barbara Bingham, Holly Keen and David Kreiss-Tomkins (all excused).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Curt recommended the June Minutes be revised to include the fact that the Commissioners had unanimously approved of Curt's decision to write a letter of concern to Mayor Dapceovich expressing disapproval of the process of line items reductions made by the Assembly during municipal fiscal budget work sessions. Curt and the Commissioners expressed the opinion that department heads should determine how a budget reduction should be implemented. They believed it wasn't the Assembly's role to make those decisions. Jan made a motion that the June Minutes be approved as amended and Jane seconded the motion. The June meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

ADDITIONS /CHANGES TO AGENDA:

At the beginning of the meeting, Curt requested two items be added to the agenda: AmeriCorps and Other Volunteers and Mayor Dapceovich's Response to Curt's Budget Process Concerns.

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Old Business:

Fundraising Calendar

Cheryl reported that \$90.00 had been collected for eighteen calendars sold since May.

Friends of the Library Update

Jan announced that the annual meeting of the Friends of the Kettleson Memorial Library will be held at 7pm on July 9th in the Rousseau Room at Harrigan Centennial Hall. A new Board of Directors will be elected, and if there is enough interest, three committees will be formed.

Summer Reading Program Update

Cheryl reported that 224 children and teens were registered for the Summer Reading Program, which is offering special events throughout the summer. The Commissioners concurred that the number of participants was excellent. Curt asked if that number included the Reading Buddies participants and Cheryl reported that the two programs are separate. There are 32 children and 34 adults participating in the Reading Buddies Program.

Problem Patrons

Cheryl reported that a problem with a particular group of teens had been escalating for months. These teens had increasingly been directed to leave the teen area in the Children's Room (and eventually the library building) due to their use of profanity, refusal to follow library policies and rudeness to adults and children present in the room. Among other problems reported were girdling a maple tree on library property (effectively killing it), underage smoking (including a seven and a nine year-old), severe littering, disturbing the peace, yelling and swearing at library staff, preschoolers left unattended by teens and tearing branches from a Maple tree. The situation became so severe that Cheryl banned three teens from the library for a week. Each teen ignored the ban and continued to enter the library and misbehave on library grounds. Cheryl extended the ban until September 2nd and extended to ban to library property. Banning library users is only implemented as a last resort, and this is the first time that teenagers have been banned from the library building and its surrounding property. Cheryl reported that she talked to one probation officer, four teens' parents and had written the parents a letter about the situation. Criminal trespass orders were served by police to three of the teenagers. When the Commissioners asked their names, Cheryl said she'd prefer to go into executive

session later in the meeting to insure confidentiality of their identities.

In an unrelated incident, Cheryl reported that an irate parent of a Sitka student called the library, liberally used profanity and threatened library staff during the telephone conversation. Subsequent discussions among Cheryl, police officers, the parent and the student revealed that the boy had lied to his father about a situation in which he was involved at the library. The parent was reprimanded by the Police Officer, who recommended that no further action was required by library staff in the matter.

New Business:

Request for Reconsideration

Cheryl informed the Commissioners that a patron was offended by the amount of profanity in a movie in the library's video collection. The movie is entitled *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*. The patron filled out a Request for Reconsideration asking that the movie be removed from the library collection. Cheryl reported that she watched the movie, directed by Sam Peckinpaw, which is considered a Western classic. In her response to the patron, Cheryl provided an explanation about her decision to retain the movie in the library collection. The movie fits within the scope of the library collection development policy and is considered a classic. Cheryl also recommended that the patron check a movie's rating by the Motion Picture Association of America prior to watching it. A movie is rated "R" (restricted) due to nudity, violence or profanity. The "R" rating appeared on the library's copy of the video. The Commissioners concurred with Cheryl's decision to retain the movie in the collection.

Miscellaneous

Cheryl informed the Commissioners that she would attend the American Library Association 2008 Conference in Anaheim June 28th through July 1st and return to work on July 2nd.

Curt called an executive session, which last twenty-three minutes.

AmeriCorps and Other Volunteers

Curt reported that there will be fourteen AmeriCorps volunteers in Sitka by the end of this summer. He requested that the library adopt a policy of allowing AmeriCorps,

Jesuit and Vista volunteers to have a permanent library card without official proof of a local address. Library policy requires official proof of local residency as a condition for establishing a resident's library account. Curt informed the Commissioners that many volunteers won't have their drivers' licenses or ID's changed while living in Sitka and they won't all be living in one location. As the volunteers will be here for almost a year, working for the betterment of Sitka, and receiving very low wages; Curt felt it was only fair for the library to give them residents' borrowing privileges. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that volunteers receive residents' library cards as opposed to visitors' cards, which limits the number of items checked out at any given time to five. Cheryl asked if the volunteers would be able to provide any documentation verifying their status as volunteers, and Curt said there was nothing official currently available. Curt thought library staff should accept the word of a volunteer when registering for a card. Cheryl requested that some type of verification be made or lists of volunteers for these organizations be supplied to library staff, which Curt confirmed could be done. Cheryl reported that some volunteers previously had asked that they be given residents' status. Cheryl informed the Commissioners that she'd revise the policy to allow AmeriCorps, Jesuit and Vista volunteers to have residents' status regarding borrowing privileges.

Mayor Dapcevich's Response to Curt's Budget Process Concerns

Curt mentioned the email answer he received from Mayor Dapcevich regarding his concerns about the Assembly's policy of reducing line items for some departments during its FY09 budget work sessions. Curt said the Mayor emailed him a lengthy response, expressed offense taken by Curt's concerns and reiterated the Assembly's right to make line item reductions or cuts during the Assembly budget work sessions. Curt reported that the tone of the Mayor's response was negative and he hadn't decided whether he would answer Marko's email message. The other Commissioners expressed the opinion that a further response from Curt to the Mayor wasn't necessary, recommended nor would it affect any change in the situation.

Library Director's Report

Staff continues to be very busy with tourists.

Pre-School Story Hour won't be held until after school starts.

"Teddy Bears' Picnic" was the theme of the June Babies and Books Program, which was held on June 28th at 10:30am.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Next Meeting:

August 6th at 7:00 p.m. inHarrigan Centennial Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Pearson, Library Director

Approved,

Curt Ledford, Library Board Commission Chair