

Kettleon Memorial Library Board Commission Meeting Minutes August 1, 2007

Location: Pestchouroff Room in Harrigan Centennial Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Ledford called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Curt Ledford, Jan Love, Barbara Bingham, Jane Eidler, Holly Keen, and Rebecca Himschoot.

Staff Present: Cheryl Pearson, Library Director.

Guests: None.

Quorum: Yes.

Members Absent: Alice Johnstone (excused).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

ADDITIONS /CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None.

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Calendar Update

Cheryl reported that the publication cost for the Sitka Reads calendars was \$4,454.15 and calendar sales have totaled \$1,145.00. Cheryl mentioned that book sales had totaled \$2,885.00 since last August. That amount included proceeds from the Alaska Day Book Sale. Curt suggested that the calendars be more visible in the library and suggested that a display be made showing each page of the calendar to increase sales.

Youth Services Librarian Position Update

Cheryl reported that there were eighteen applicants for the position. After the preliminary

Y:\DIRECTOR\BOARD\MinutesMay07.doc

interviews, four finalists had been chosen by the hiring committee from the pool of applicants. One was local and three were from the lower 48 states. All were excellent candidates. The hiring committee has been busy reading with the recruitment process.

Summer Reading and Reading Buddies Programs Update

Cheryl reported that the Summer Reading Program included 205 children and would end August 19th. The Reading Buddies Program included a record-breaking twenty-five children and would end August 13th. Cheryl attributed the immense success of both programs to planning and implementation by Tiffany Bryner and Marilyn Guhl. She lavished praise on the work they had accomplished which went way beyond the call of duty. Cheryl expressed gratitude for the great job that library staff do every day. Two other very successful youth programs occurred in July: Jeff Wheeler's magic show and the Harry Potter party. Both were very popular with at least 100 people attending each. The costumes worn at the Harry Potter party were very creative and Cheryl mentioned that pictures of the many adults who attended are on display at the library.

Sarah Jones' Raven Radio Show

Cheryl reported that Sarah Jones' new Raven Radio show includes an interview each week of a Sitkan who'd like to discuss a book, author or series he or she has read. Those enjoying music CD, videos and/or audiobooks are also welcome to Sarah's show, which airs at 5:30pm on Saturdays. She had interviewed Kari Sagel, Blatchley Middle School Librarian, and Cheryl Pearson and would interview Nancy Gustavson the following Sunday.

Miscellaneous

Jan Love said she would like to see statistics which indicated library usage of just Sitkans with regular library cards. She is more interested in what statistics reveal about Sitkans and not particularly interested in visitors. Cheryl said the people counter couldn't distinguish between types of people (visitors or regulars), and the Sirsi software didn't delineate categories of users borrowing materials. Cheryl said she couldn't follow up on the suggestion that library staff count each category of patron and their borrowing rates because the library staff is so busy that they are almost overwhelmed by their daily workload. Curt suggested that Cheryl contact Dan Langbauer to see if he'd be willing to volunteer his statistics class students to help with gathering the statistics Jan would like.

As this was Rebecca Himshoot's last meeting, Cheryl expressed gratitude for the great job she had done and was sorry to see her leave the Library Board Commission. As of August 1st, no applications for the vacancy had been received.

Sirsi software modifications update

Cheryl reported that the majority of software modifications were expected to be completed By the end of August, which is a major accomplishment undertaken by library staff members Gerry vonRekowski and Joanna Perensovich. The software modifications project has been very challenging, time-intensive and required much technical expertise. Cheryl reported that she has been quite impressed with Gerry's and Joanna's abilities and efforts in accomplishing this particularly demanding project.

Library Director's Report: Cheryl Pearson

Library staff has been exceptionally busy with regular patrons and the influx of seasonal visitors, who heavily use the facility. Throughout the summer, the nine public access Internet computers have been booked solid. I have met with the Reverend Dr. David Dobler, President of Sheldon Jackson and Ginny Blackson, who was the Stratton Library Director. Ginny and I are very concerned about the contents of the library when the temperatures drop at the end of summer. Mold will grow in the collections unless the building is heated to a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Dr. Dobler gave no reassurance that the library would be heated during the winter. During the 1060s, the E.L. Andrews collection was purchased by the Sitka Rotary and has been in Stratton Library due to the public library's space constraints. I am very concerned about the condition of all the archival materials, as they are irreplaceable and valuable to the community and those conducting research.

,
Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5th in the Rousseau Room at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Pearson
Library Director

Approved,

Curt Ledford
Library Board Commission Chair