

Kettleson Memorial Library Board Commission Meeting Minutes October 3, 2007

Location: Pestchouroff Room in Harrigan Centennial Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Ledford called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present: Cheryl Pearson, Library Director.

Guests: None.

Quorum: Yes.

Members Absent: Alice Johnstone (excused).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The September meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

ADDITIONS /CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None.

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Youth Services Librarian Position Update

Cheryl discussed Haley Walters' decision not to take the Youth Services Librarian position weeks after her initial acceptance of the job. Cheryl informed the Commissioners that she had discussed the Youth Services Librarian vacancy with Mark Danielson, John Stein, members of the hiring committee and senior members of the Library staff and it was agreed that Maite Lorente would be an excellent choice for the position. Cheryl offered the position to Maite, and she accepted. She will begin work in her new capacity at the library on November 13th.

Y:\DIRECTOR\BOARD\MinutesOct07.doc

Sitka Reads

For the next Sitka Reads title, the Commissioners selected *Capitol Offense*, a murder mystery set in Alaska and written by Mike Doogan.

Calendar Update

The Commissioners plan to sell more Sitka Reads calendars. Jan agreed to contact Sea Mart, Curt will contact SCAPS and Barbara will contact Lakeside Grocery to schedule tables for selling calendars on Saturdays in November and December. Barbara Bingham said she would share the table she's renting during the Artisans' Market, which will be held December 7th through the 9th.

Banned Books Week

Cheryl announced that the week of September 29 through October 6, 2007 marked the 26th anniversary of Banned Books Week, the American Library Association's celebration of the freedom to read. A display with some books challenged or banned in libraries or school has been set up in the library. Shannon Haugland interviewed Cheryl about Banned Books Week for an article in the Daily Sitka Sentinel. Cheryl emphasized that Kettleon Memorial Library has never banned a book.

End of Summer Updates/Statistics

Cheryl compared library use statistics for FY2003 through FY2007. Most noteworthy was the large increase in patron visits during FY07 (160,365 as opposed to 114,970 visits the previous fiscal year). Jan Love questioned the accuracy of the statistics. Cheryl reported that the electronic counting device had been checked and was quite accurate. The fiscal years before 2006 were always estimates based on random sampling, which could have been inaccurate. In 2003, the library staff full-time equivalent was 7.25 positions. There were 103,069 library visits that year. The Kettleon Library staff FTE was 7.45 in 2007. Cheryl expressed concern that the library is busier each year, but the number of staff positions isn't commensurate with the library usage increases. She reported that the library desperately needs more tables and chairs to accommodate seating for more patrons. The Commissioners discussed rearranging a few key areas to allow an increase in tables and chairs. They agreed on an arrangement that would accommodate a plan for additional seating.

Cheryl also reported total circulation statistics have dropped during the past two years. She attributes that partly to the changing nature of library usage by the public:

more patrons come to the library to use public access computing equipment but not necessarily to utilize more traditional library services. She also attributed two lengthy closures of the library for the HVAC system replacement and the asbestos abatement and re-flooring project. Additionally, the Youth Services Librarian position was vacant for six and-a-half months during the past fiscal year.

Miscellaneous

Cheryl mentioned that the annual Alaska Day Book Sale couldn't be on the Saturday prior to October 18th because she'd be in Girdwood for training. She thought it best to have the sale begin on Alaska Day (10am-noon) and continue for a week during regular library hours. The Commissioners approved. Jane, Holly, Curt and Barbara said they could help Cheryl set the book sale up 6-9p.m. on October 17th. Cheryl said she'd ask some Friends of the Library to help during the first day of the sale.

Library Director's Report: Cheryl Pearson

Cheryl has met with other librarians and members of the public interested in the preservation of the collections located in Stratton Library. The heat has been turned on in the building, but the humidity levels continue to exceed acceptable levels. Cheryl is working with Alaska State Library personnel to improve conditions at Stratton. Cheryl has also participated in meetings with the Sitka Repository Consortium, a group of local professionals interested in establishing a building dedicated for desperately needed archival storage, display and education. SAFV is showing a movie each Saturday in October at the library at 11:00a.m. in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Teen Reads Week is October 15 through 20, 2007. On October 12th, a caricature artist joined the Teen Advisory Board for an evening of fun and art. Babies and Books will feature a "Young at Art" theme on Saturday, October 27th at 10:30 a.m. There will be a panel discussion (including Robert DeArmond, Richard Nelson and Bill Foster) at the library on Sunday, October 28th at 6:30p.m. The panel will discuss a list of 67 books the Alaska State Historical Society considers the best starting points for an understanding of Alaska history. There will be a special pre-school Story Time at 10:30a.m. on Wednesday, October 31st.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Pearson
Library Director

Approved,

Curt Ledford
Library Board Commission Chair

