



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees
September 16, 2008
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at the Library Center with Cherri Jones presiding.

Members present: Leslie Carrier, Bruce Chrisope, Martha Crise, Cheryl Griffeth, Neil Guion, Vickie Hicks, Cherri Jones, Morey Mechlin

Members absent: Rodney Nichols

Disposition of Minutes: Mechlin moved to approve the August 19, 2008, open and closed minutes and the August 26, 2008, minutes after correcting the duplicated adjournment motion on August 26. Chrisope seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Guion yea, Hicks yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea. Motion carried.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Through August, the Library was 4.3% under budget. Income included annual invoice receipts from consortium members for maintenance and support. Revenue included receipts from Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants including: Community and Conflict, the Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks; After School Connection Lego; and Digital Imaging. The Library also received revenue from the U. S. Department of Education Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (MO-PIRC) grant.

Expenses included a book return for the Strafford Branch from Account 6411 Office Furniture and Equipment and the second payment to Innovative Interfaces for the Encore catalog from Account 6416 Computer Software.

Chrisope moved to accept the financial report. Mechlin seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Guion yea, Hicks yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea. Motion carried.

Cheryl Griffeth arrived at the meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Chair Neil Guion reported architects are working with staff on interior and exterior designs. The sink hole problem was resolved by moving the building further north on the property.

The tentative timeline for completing the Willard Branch project is March 2009. Incorporating several “green” elements have been discussed with the developer.

Based on Facilities Manager Allen Woody’s review of the work that would need to be completed before leasing the space adjacent to the current Ash Grove Branch facility, the committee will not recommend pursuing the proposal and will continue to look for opportunities in Ash Grove.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee: Chair Morey Mechlin reported the committee is discussing systematic ways to plan and implement programs. They will use an outcome-based approach that is data driven. The committee will review the impact of the program and not just the attendance at the program.

Circulation in August increased 5.2% with 333,827 materials circulating systemwide. Total branch traffic increased 4% with 160,372 patron visits. Systemwide, 1,473 groups used the meeting rooms with an attendance of 10,701. There were 367,594 searches from the Library's electronic products. There was a problem with the web server so there are not statistics for August.

Search Committee: Board President Cherri Jones reviewed the interview schedule for the four Executive Director candidates. Some of the interview topics will include technology trends, staff relations, management, budgeting and finance. Staff and the public will have the opportunity to meet and visit with the candidates at the "Meet-n-greet" from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, September 19, at the Library Center and Saturday, September 20, at the Brentwood Branch. The candidates will be given a map to tour the branches on their own while they are in Springfield.

Report of the Director: Executive Director Annie Busch commended the Board for all the time and energy they put into the extensive search process.

Board and staff members from the Mid-Continent Public Library in Kansas City will visit the Library Station and Park Central Branches on Thursday, September 25. Mid-Continent Public Library recently opened the Midwest Genealogy Center, which is the largest public genealogical facility in the Midwest. Jim Stufflebeam from Sapp Design Associates was the architect for the new facility.

More than 220 people attended a block party hosted by the Brentwood Branch and the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. Entertainment was provided by the bluegrass band High Strung. More than 300 people attended the Geezerfest concert on the patio at the Library Center.

Busch will travel to Kansas City to meet with the Directors of Large Libraries (DOLL) to address issues of abatements, assessments and advocacy.

The Community Improvement District (CID) will match its funds with the amount the Library is already spending on security at the Park Central Branch to upgrade coverage from a private security service to off-duty, uniformed police officers.

Board Education: Youth Services Coordinator Nancee Dahms-Stinson reported more than 8,000 children and teens participated in the summer reading clubs. The children in the "Catch the Reading Bug" program read more than 50,000 hours, a 21% increase from last year. Nearly 6,000 attended the professional systemwide programs and more than 2,600 earned free books. This year's teen program, themed "Metamorphosis", was completely online for the first time and attracted more than 1,000 patrons, a 5% drop from last year. The teens read 23,351 hours, a 42% increase from last year, and submitted 752 online reviews. The Friends of the Library provided funds for the quality programming. Next year the Library plans to continue to focus on at-risk children, improve the online club and adjust programming needs.

Outreach Services Manager Allison Eckhardt reported 2,118 children participated in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant-funded 2008 Summer Reading to Go program compared to

920 in 2007. The goal of the program was to bring the Library and its summer reading clubs and programs to children of working parents who may not have the opportunity to visit a branch. Program sites included Springfield elementary summer schools, YMCA programs, Springfield Parks playground programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, in-home day cares, Head Starts and the Salvation Army. Staff presented 510 programs to 11,240 children and adults at the 49 sites, a large increase from last year's 249 programs to 5,386 children. Nearly 5,000 books were shared with the children during the summer.

The Board suggested staff meet with teachers from Springfield Public Schools to discuss a cooperative program in which names of the children and youth participating in the summer reading program are sent to the educators to track improvement in reading levels by the participants.

New Business: Jones asked the trustees to let her know if anyone can attend the LAGERS Annual Meeting at University Plaza in Springfield on October 23-24, 2008.

The Library Foundation meets at noon on the first Monday of every month. The President of the Board of Trustees of the Springfield-Greene County Library District or the designated representative is an ex-officio member with full voting powers. Jones asked if there was a trustee who would like to be the representative on the Library Foundation Board. The trustee should contact Jones before the October 6 Library Foundation Board meeting.

Hicks moved the Board adjourn to closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Mechlin seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Griffeth yea, Guion yea, Hicks yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:10 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Debbie Eckert, Business Office Manager