



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees
December 5, 2007
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 5, 2007, at the Library Center with President Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery presiding.

Members present: Leslie Carrier, Bruce Chrisope, Martha Crise, Gary Funk, Neil Guion, Cherri Jones, Morey Mechlin, Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery, Rodney Nichols

Marc Whitmore, owner of the building that the Library plans to lease to house a Strafford Branch Library, is willing to sell the building and is in the process of getting it appraised. This report may be available by the December Board meeting.

The 7.03 acres of land located south of the Library Center appraised at \$1,160,000.

The leading candidate interviewed to lease the café at the Library Center withdrew the proposal. Executive Director Annie Busch received a proposal from the Mudhouse Coffee & Tea Company to lease the café; and they could possibly take over operation as early as January 1, 2008. There were also three other candidates interviewed by the Finance and Personnel Committee interested in leasing the café space.

Funk moved to pursue negotiations with the Mudhouse Coffee & Tea Company to operate the café at the Library Center. Carrier seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery arrived at the meeting.

The Board reviewed the projects for the proposed capital tax levy increase. The telephone survey conducted in October 2007 indicated 52% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy to relocate and build a new library branch in Willard. Two possible sites for the Willard Branch include a new building on the current site built by the current landlord or a new building on the Ozark Greenways property. It was the consensus of the Board to contact Ozark Greenways Executive Director Terry Whaley to request a letter of intent prior to the December Board meeting indicating Ozark Greenways' interest in locating the Willard Branch on the property. The Board also wanted to view an Ozark Greenways conceptual sketch of the Library on their property.

The survey indicated 50% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to relocate the Ash Grove Branch to a larger facility in Ash Grove. Sites for the Ash Grove Branch include a Ford dealership property, expansion into the building next door to the current facility or vacant land on Highway 160. Facilities Manager Allen Woody is meeting with a structural engineer to review the structural condition of the current facility. It was the consensus of the Board to continue investigating the structural condition of the current facility, look at the Ford dealership property and to continue to define the specifics of the project for the January 2008 survey.

The survey indicated 50% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to relocate the Fair Grove Branch to a larger facility in Fair Grove. Sites for the Fair Grove Branch include property across from City Hall and adjacent to new soccer fields and park, property south of the current branch location owned by the Water Commission, property across the street from the Headstart or property directly behind the Bank of Bolivar. The lease on the current facility terminates on December 31, 2010, but has the option to renew for an additional five years. There is not access to the shared community room at the current facility and the City of Fair Grove may not want to renew the lease because they need the space for city offices. It was the consensus of the Board to investigate the property across the street from City Hall and adjacent to the new soccer fields and park and also the property south of the current branch owned by the Water Commission.

The survey indicated 56% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to relocate and build a new library branch in Republic. A possible site is property at Highways 174 and 60 in the Highland Park Town Center. The developer of the property submitted a contingency contract that was discussed in closed session.

The survey indicated 62% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to make major repairs and renovations to the Midtown Carnegie Branch. Major maintenance includes stained glass repair, tuck pointing/sealing and front step repairs.

The survey indicated 50% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to provide staffing, furniture and library materials for a library facility on Blackman Road. It was the consensus of the Board to not include the Blackman Road facility on the January 2008 survey.

The survey indicated 70% of the voters surveyed would support a tax levy increase to relocate the Brentwood Branch Library to the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks building. Possible sites include the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks building, vacant land on East Sunshine and the Southern Hills Price Cutter store. Both the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks and the Price Cutter buildings are owned by the Jared family, and they will not sell their properties but would negotiate a long-term lease agreement. It was the consensus of the Board to contact the Jared family and request a proposal for a long-term lease for the Southern Hills Price Cutter location by the December Board meeting.

A second survey of voters is scheduled for January 8-10, 2008. The Board would like to review the wording for the items on the survey with Mark Ellickson from Opinion Research Specialists, LLC, prior to conducting the January survey.

Architect Jim Stufflebeam presented a proposal to evaluate the scope of the proposed projects, potential process and scope of architectural services that may be required. Mechlin moved to engage an architect and engineer to pursue necessary land sitings for the proposed branch library properties. Funk seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

The Board discussed possible co-chairs for the proposed tax levy campaign. Busch will contact possible leaders and present names to the Board at a later meeting.

Funk moved to adjourn the meeting to closed session to discuss a real estate proposal. Mechlin seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to closed session.

Martha Crise left the meeting following the closed session.

Following the closed session, Planning and Development Coordinator Carol Grimes reported the Christian County Library is planning a tax levy election in April 2008 to raise its tax rate to 25 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The Christian County Library would like a borrowing agreement with the Springfield-Greene County Library District to include in their campaign. Currently, non-residents of Greene County pay a \$50 annual fee to use the Library. The Christian County Library proposed paying the Springfield-Greene County Library District \$55 per household per year instead of individual households paying the fee.

Nichols moved the Springfield-Greene County Library District advise the Christian County Library that we will continue discussions on a borrowing agreement after the Springfield-Greene County Library District's tax levy election in April 2008. Mechlin seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Board of Trustees

Debbie Eckert, Business Office Manager