



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees
February 20, 2007
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at the Midtown Carnegie Branch with President Krystal Compas presiding.

Members present: Bruce Chrisope, Krystal Compas, Gary Funk, Neil Guion, Cherri Jones, Morey Mechlin, Jean Woody

Members absent: Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery, Rodney Nichols

Manager Martha Love gave a brief overview of the Midtown Carnegie Branch. "The Spot" quickly became a popular place for young adults using the branch. The area features X-Box games, computers and study rooms.

A Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Teen Spaces Grant was awarded to the Library for the Midtown Carnegie and Republic Branches. The grant will need to buy furniture and equipment to update the young adult departments.

Disposition of Minutes: Mechlin moved to approve the December 19, 2006, minutes. Chrisope seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Neil Guion arrived at the meeting.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Through January, the Library was 7% under budget. Effective February 7, The Signature Bank increased the interest rate on the money market account to 5%. Income included tax revenue from current and delinquent taxes, railroad and utility taxes and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). Sur Tax revenue should be received in February. The Library received a payment from Between Friends for gift shop proceeds as well as six months' payroll reimbursement.

Expenses included a deposit on materials to replace the sink in the men's restroom at the Library Center from account 5371 Building Repairs. That work will be completed during the Presidents' Day holiday weekend. Account 5373 Office Equipment Repair included annual maintenance from Innovative Interfaces. A deposit was made on a vehicle for the Outreach Services Department from account 6412 Motor Vehicles. The vehicle did not work for the department's needs, and the deposit will be refunded.

The gross profit margin for Café 641 was 59.2% with total income of \$15,847.82 and expenses at \$15,899.29. A new line item appears on the January Profit & Loss report for Ice Storm Loss. The café submitted \$1,828.78 in claims to the insurance company for food loss and equipment repairs on the freezer. The insurance deductible is \$1,000.

Chrisope moved to accept the financial report. Woody seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Architectural plans for the Strafford Branch were submitted to the City of Strafford on February 20. The architect should know within ten days if the plans are approved for a building permit, and construction is expected to take two to three months.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee: Chair Cherri Jones reported the library is ahead of the curve among libraries in programming. Currently the trend in libraries is for smaller reference desks and reference librarians to be out among the patrons to offer assistance.

Report of the Director: The Library will provide support for an American Library Association grant that encourages area high school and college students to read Jewish literature. Board member Cherri Jones is the project director and grant writer for the "Let's Talk About It" book discussion grant. The grant includes funds for books and programming during the 2007-2008 school year.

In addition to being a part of the Missouri State University Public Affairs conference by hosting a panel titled **Immigration in a Shrinking World**, the library will host author and Egyptian physician Nawal El Saadawi, author of **Women at Point Zero**, who will speak on issues concerning Middle Eastern women. Another panel on American, Islam and the Middle East will be hosted at the Library Center.

Staff has been learning more about childhood issues through attending programs on gangs and child abuse and neglect in order to help identify the Library's role in improving the lives of children.

Governor Matt Blunt added money back into the State Aid budget, taking the libraries back to 45 cents per capita. Blunt also added another \$750,000 to the Athletes and Entertainers Tax allocation and approved an additional \$150,000 for some electronic databases. Blunt left MOREnet funding level, which is not acceptable with increasing demands for more bandwidth from existing users.

The Library's newest websites, The Informed Decision and Hot Topics, won the 2007 Thomson Gale Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services.

The annual Board Retreat will begin at noon on March 20 at the Library Center. Dan Bradbury will attend the retreat to discuss the timeline for recruiting a new director when Executive Director Annie Busch retires.

Youth Services Coordinator Nancee Dahms-Stinson reported on the Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (MO-PIRC) grant received in conjunction with Burrell Behavioral Health and six other partners. The grant provides for a fulltime Youth Services Associate who will coordinate early literacy programs among parents, schools and relevant state agencies.

Board Education: Planning and Development Coordinator Carol Grimes reported on Counting Opinions, the Library's ongoing and long-term survey tool for measuring Library customer satisfaction. Since August 2006 when the software was uploaded to patron computers and hard-

copy surveys were made available, almost 600 responses have been tallied. Overall, responses have been positive.

New Business: Bruce Chrisope reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee reviewed the proposed budget modifications. Revisions included increased revenue from Friends of the Library grants and federal grants received since the budget was approved. Revisions to the expense accounts included increases to Library Collections for additional gift and memorial donations, grant expenses for furniture and equipment, interior design services for branches and rental and service costs for a new color copier. Building Rental was decreased to reflect only two months rental for the Strafford Branch, and the line-of-credit was decreased to reflect actual net activity.

Chrisope moved to approve the modified budget for 2006-2007 as printed. Jones seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Funk moved to approve the change to the Library Foundation bylaws to meet up to four times per year. Chrisope seconded. Following discussion, the motion was tabled to allow Board President Krystal Compas and Executive Director Annie Busch to meet with the Library Foundation president and talk with the Library's attorney about whether the Library Board must approve Foundation bylaws since the Foundation has their own 501(c)3 status.

Rusty Worley, executive director of the Urban District Alliance, reported on downtown development, future activities and the directions of anticipated growth. He talked about plans for specific locations and developers who are involved in the major projects.

Mechlin moved to authorize Busch to negotiate a lease on the 3,100-square-foot portion of the Kresge building that faces Park Central Square with the Finance and Personnel Committee reviewing the final lease for approval. Guion seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items: Woody moved to adjourn the meeting. Funk seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Debbie Eckert, Business Office Manager