



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees
January 15, 2008
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 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

Members absent: none

Disposition of Minutes: Mechlin moved to approve the December 18, 2007, minutes. Jones seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Through December, the Library was 7.6% under budget. Income included a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the Republic Housing Authority, quarterly trust income from the Buhrman Trust and the annual distribution from the Frank and Lillie Steury Trust. Grant income included reimbursements from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Community and Conflict, the Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks grant as well as the U.S. Department of Education Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (MO-PIRC) grant.

Expenses included property appraisals for the Brentwood Branch and vacant land at the Library Center, auditing services and Phase I interior design for the Park Central Branch from Account 5319 Professional Services. Account 5397 Training included Staff Development Day expenses for food, building rental and programming. The Staff Development Day speaker was provided through an LSTA Training and Professional Development grant. Account 6411 Office Furniture and Equipment included deposits on furniture for the Park Central Branch.

Café 641's last day of operations was December 31, 2007. The gross profit margin for Café 641 was 49.2% with total income of \$12,158.75 and expenses of \$14,426.84. The café net loss was \$2,268.09. A final report will be presented after the final payroll is paid, accounts payable checks have cleared and all inventory accounted for.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee: No report.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee: Circulation increased 9.8% with 267,214 materials circulating systemwide. Total branch traffic decreased 1.3% with 111,552 patron visits. Systemwide, 651 groups used the meeting rooms with an attendance of 4,037. There were 536,413 searches from the Library's electronic products. The web server recorded a total of 589,392 page views by 83,638 visitors during December.

Report of the Director: Furniture orders have been placed for the Park Central Branch with a late February or early March delivery schedule. The official grand opening is tentatively set for April 4. This project has gone smoothly.

The Mudhouse Coffee and Tea Company opened January 8 at the Library Center. There was no food service the first week in January to facilitate the Mudhouse's transition to the Library Center. The transition went smoothly.

Work continues slowly on the renovations for the Strafford Branch. The coffee shop portion of the building has no floor, which could cause issues with obtaining the occupancy permit for the entire building. The city administrator is working with the Library to keep the project moving forward.

Board Education: Planning and Development Coordinator Carol Grimes gave a presentation on Peer Comparisons. She used several charts to examine peer libraries inside and outside Missouri that are similar in size, budget and number of branches to the Library District. Comparisons included: Total Expenditures per Capita, Percentage of Budget for Materials and Staff, Circulation and Materials Expenditures, Staff and Librarians per 100 Hours Open, Visits and Reference per Capita, and Program Attendance per Capita.

New Business: Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery provided an overview of the results of the October 2007 survey as being 57% favorable, while the results from the January 2008 survey were 49% favorable, 47% opposed and 4% undecided. She attributed this to the current economic environment and that citizens had just paid their property taxes. Comments from the survey were generally anti-tax, not anti-library projects. It was the consensus of the Board to not continue with the capital tax levy at this time.

Even though there was no notification prior to the Board meeting, Stenger-Montgomery invited two members of the public to speak: Alice Rainbolt and Dan Dunaway. The couple expressed support for the library but feared "runaway" taxes.

Miscellaneous Items: It was the consensus of the Board to return to separate committee meetings.

Chrisope moved to adjourn the meeting. Mechlin seconded. Carrier yea, Chrisope yea, Crise yea, Funk yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Debbie Eckert, Business Office Manager