



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees  
May 17, 2005  
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, at the Library Center.

Members present: Bruce Chrisope, Krystal Compas, Gary Funk, Cherri Jones, Bill Mauck, Morey Mechlin, Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery, Jean Woody

Member absent: Rodney Nichols

Disposition of Minutes: Jones moved to approve the April 19, 2005, minutes. Compas seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mauck yea, Mechlin yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

*Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery arrived at the meeting*

The agenda item on the Republic Branch telephone survey results was moved up on the agenda before the standing committee reports.

Mark Ellickson of Opinion Research Specialists, LLC, reported very strong support for a proposed shared library facility located on the campus of a new Republic High School. The survey, conducted April 10-13, 2005, was comprised of 404 completed telephone interviews of randomly selected registered voters living within the Republic School District. He said 69% of the demographic groups surveyed were in favor of the proposed collaboration between the school district and the Library. Support was strongest among the respondents 18-49 years old and those with children in the household. Some reasons given from those opposed to the proposed facility included inconvenient location or concern of mixing high school students and the general public.

According to the survey, 68% of those surveyed had visited the Republic Branch in the past 12 months. The majority was either very satisfied (70%) or somewhat satisfied (28%) with the Library. Some reasons given for not visiting the Library included having a computer or Internet access at home and buying or renting books, magazines, videos and DVDs.

This data, the earlier focus group information and financial projections will be reviewed with Republic School District staff this summer.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Through April, the Library was .9% under budget. Income included third and fourth quarter state aid disbursements as well as reimbursement from the Early Learning Opportunities Act Stories-to-Go grant. Miscellaneous Income included a speaker honorarium for the state summer reading program training and \$1,800 for support for the Ethnic Life Stories. The Library collected online \$1,208.17 in fines and out-of-county fees from 131 transactions in April.

Expenses include printing of the annual report from Account 5342 Printing. Account 5374 Plant Equipment Repairs included repair of the HVAC chiller at the Midtown Carnegie Branch. The installation of the security system at the Library Center was included in Account 6411 Office Equipment.

Funk moved to accept the financial report as presented. Montgomery seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mauck yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Executive Director Annie Busch reviewed the proposed budget for 2005-2006. The proposed budget includes limited expenditures in an attempt to eliminate short-term borrowing. State aid revenues have been reduced to reflect the cuts in funding finalized by the General Assembly, but increases to compensate for the MOBIUS and MOREnet cuts are not included. The budget includes a proposed 3% salary adjustment for staff members on the salary track and 1 ½% for those off the salary track for the 2005-2006 budget year. The budget will be approved at the June meeting.

Woody moved to accept the proposed 3% salary adjustment for staff members on the salary track and 1½% for those off the salary track for the 2005-2006 budget year. Compas seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mauck yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

The approval of the personnel budget pending June's final budget approval will allow the Human Resources staff time to make the changes necessary in the payroll software before the salary increases begin July 1.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Regina Cameron from the Rogersville Betterment Association gave an update to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on the Rogersville Community Center project. Since it is premature to enter into formal discussions on additional library service, different options were discussed for other potential partnerships the Rogersville Betterment Association could pursue.

Busch met with the Strafford mayor, a city councilman and a school board member to discuss library service in Strafford. The City of Strafford may be willing to provide space, some funds for renovations and volunteers to help with limited library service. Since the request does meet the guidelines for county branches as outlined in the Facility Plan approved in September 2004, it was the consensus of the committee to have Busch explore the feasibility of limited library service in Strafford.

Busch will meet with Republic School District Superintendent Pam Hedgpeth to review the telephone survey results as well as discuss financing for the project.

Busch will make an appointment to meet with the Presiding Commissioner of Christian County to explore collaborative options for regional services between the Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Christian County Library.

The committee needs suggestions for names for the Center City Branch Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will meet monthly to hear presentations from the design groups, and the council members will need to be approved by the September 23, 2005, charette event.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee: Chair Cheri Jones reported that the committee completed drafts for the mission, rationale and goals for the Outreach, Local History and Collection Management departments.

Library card registrations increased 3.6% with a total of 1,459 new cardholders in April. Circulation increased 2.7% with 251,653 materials circulating systemwide. Systemwide, 1,434 groups used the meeting rooms with an attendance of 11,640 and 247 programs were held with an attendance of 4,473. Statistics were not available for remote use of electronic products because Innovative Interfaces redesigned the template for counting remote use of electronic products. The web server had a total of 375,392 page views by 47,168 visitors during the month of April.

Report of the Director: The Library began using Unique Management Services in October 2000 to collect overdue fines, fees and materials. In a report covering October 2000 – March 2005, 9,214 accounts were processed for collection. Of that number, 85.61% of the patrons processed responded by fully or partially settled their accounts.

Recent research compiled by the Association for Research Libraries on interlibrary loans costs show the cost of borrowing an item in a shared consortia environment like MOBIUS to be \$2.89 versus \$17.50 using traditional interlibrary loan. The cost of loaning an item in a shared consortia environment was \$3.27 versus \$9.27 using traditional interlibrary loan. The average cost of purchasing an item, including staff time and processing charges, was \$42.

In May, the grant-funded Stories-to-Go project served 55 facilities with 125 storytimes reaching 1,718 children.

The Library was only one of 20 institutions across the country to be selected for a programming grant to generate interest in science from the American Library Association in conjunction with WGBH Boston public television. The grant celebrates the 100-year anniversary of  $E=MC^2$ , Albert Einstein's most famous equation. The month-long series of programs will be planned for fall and will be produced in collaboration with Becky Baker, a physics professor at SMSU. The events will target adults and middle and high school students.

Jared Rupp, who is serving seven years in prison for setting fire to the Library Center last year, is being sued in a civil lawsuit in an effort to recover the more than half million dollars in damage caused by his actions. The insurance company initiated the lawsuit, but under Missouri law, the injured party is listed as the plaintiff.

Busch was asked to co-chair a Springfield Public Schools advisory committee to review various facilities reports in order to develop a strategic plan.

The Missouri State Library's 2005 Trustee Academy will be held in Kansas City on May 20 and 21, 2005. Board members were asked to contact the Business Office if they can attend.

New Business: Chrisope moved to appoint accountant Gary Wells to the Library Foundation Board of Directors to replace resigning member Brian Weimer. Woody seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mauck yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Library Center Branch Manager Lorraine Sandstrom reviewed the revised proposed Bankruptcy Policy. Compas moved to accept the Bankruptcy Policy. Chrisope seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Funk yea, Jones yea, Mauck yea, Mechlin yea, Montgomery yea, Woody yea. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items: Brentwood Branch Circulation Assistant Rose Ann Wright was presented with an album of photographs with memories of her 25 1/2 years of service with the Library District. Wright was hired in 1979 to work at the bookmobile and in 1984, implemented the Walking Books program for homebound patrons. She transferred to the Brentwood Branch three years ago.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.