



**Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees  
September 19, 2006  
Minutes**

The Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at the Library Center with President Krystal Compas presiding.

Members present: Bruce Chrisope, Krystal Compas, Neil Guion, Cherri Jones, Morey Mechlin, Rodney Nichols

Member absent: Gary Funk, Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery, Jean Woody

Branch Manager Lorraine Sandstrom gave a brief overview of the Library Center. More than 12,000 patrons check out over 100,000 items per month at the Library Center. The Library is working with the Missouri Conservation Department and the James River Basin Partnership to create rain gardens at each side of the entrance to the Library Center. On September 29 volunteers will plant more than 600 flowers, grasses and shrubs donated for the project. Pianist Buzzy DeLuca and vocalist Beth Spindler will perform songs in "The Great American Songbook" concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 22.

Disposition of Minutes: Nichols moved to approve the August 15, 2006, minutes. Jones seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee: Chair Cherri Jones reported 75 local and regional authors signed copies of their books at the second annual Author's Fair held at the Library Center on September 9.

*Neil Guion arrived at the meeting.*

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Board President Krystal Compas appointed Jean Woody to the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Furniture for the Stafford Branch Library will be shipped on October 30 with the grand opening scheduled for November 18, 2006.

Construction professionals and engineers have reviewed the construction options for the proposed Willard Branch building owned by Ozark Greenways and leased to the Library for \$1 per year. The engineers had several concerns with the general condition of the building, including the roof, drainage problems and structural soundness of the concrete blocks. A consultant will be hired to investigate the possibilities of renovating the present concrete block building or constructing a new structure on the site. Terry Whaley with Ozark Greenways is agreeable to pursuing the option of a long-term land lease or a building lease. The current landlord of the Willard Branch has extended the lease through December 2007.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Compas appointed Cherri Jones to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Through August, the Library was 3.3% under budget. Income included annual invoice receipts from consortium members for maintenance and support, a partial distribution of \$85,000 from the Virgil and Mildred Sims Trust earmarked for library service to Willard citizens and rental income from Springfield Public Schools for leasing the north parking lots at the Midtown Carnegie Branch.

Expenses included August and September health insurance premiums from Account 5125 Health Insurance, air conditioner repairs at the Brentwood Branch from Account 5374 Plant Equipment Repairs and a new freezer for Café 641 from Account 6420 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment.

Auditors from Roberts, McKenzie, Mangan and Cummings completed their field work in September and will report at the November Board meeting.

Chrisope moved to accept the financial report as mailed. Mechlin seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

Accountant Kathy Hillenburg of Whitlock, Selim and Keehn, who attended the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting and reviewed Café 641's financial reports, recommended that in order for the café to meet expenses each month, the gross profit margin must improve to 40% and food sales increase to \$20,000. Other recommendations included increasing catering sales, reducing payroll costs and lowering staff discounts.

Report of the Director: Former Library Board President Andy Montebello's son died last month in California.

Three recent Library offenders have appeared in court for their crimes. Tyler Golden, the flasher, was sentenced to five years probation and a lifetime restriction from the Library. Jody Jones who, with his girlfriend, stole more than 800 items from the Library collections and sold them to pawn shops, was to be sentenced but the sentencing was delayed. The purse snatcher confessed and is waiting for his court date.

The grant-funded Summer Reading to Go program was a success and will be included as part of the Library budget next year.

Beginning October 2, a customer satisfaction survey, Counting Opinions, will be available to patrons in both online and print formats. A link from the Library's home page will guide patrons to the survey in English and Spanish.

Next month the Board will view a demonstration of the new Informed Decision web site. The site focuses on local issues affecting the region.

The popular Bestsellers Club brochure was redesigned and distributed to branches. Club members are automatically placed on hold for books from pre-selected popular authors.

Strafford Branch Landlord Marc Whitmore from Stonegate Media Group will meet with the Library Foundation Board next month to brainstorm ideas for a signature event to raise the level of awareness of the Foundation.

Board Education: Youth Services Coordinator Vera Florea reported 4,974 children and 1,206 teens participated in the summer reading program, and 2,100 patrons participated in the Springfield Cardinals Family Reading Club. The grant-funded Summer Reading to Go program had 856 participants from day care, Head Start, YMCA, Salvation Army and Springfield-Greene County Parks Department visits. The Friends of the Library support the summer reading program by funding the programs given by professional performers.

New Business: Jones moved to elect either Morey Mechlin, Stephanie Stenger-Montgomery or Jean Woody as the employer delegate for the LAGERS Annual Meeting to be held October 26-27, 2006, at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield pending their schedule availability. Guion seconded. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

Mechlin moved to adjourn the meeting to closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Jones seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Chrisope yea, Compas yea, Guion yea, Jones yea, Mechlin yea, Nichols yea. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:40 p.m.

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Board of Trustees

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Debbie Eckert, Business Office Manager