

**Library Board Minutes, August 19, 2009, Hotchkiss Library**

**Present:** John Moore (President), Melody BellCampton (Vice-President and Secretary), Ross Blackstock, John Verbiscar, Patricia Means

**Also Present:** Annette Choszczyk (District Director), Rhonda Duclo (Assistant District Director), Terri Mondschein (System Administrator), Leah Morris (Administrative Assistant)

**Absent:** Ann Murphy, Jessica Shaffer

**Location:** Hotchkiss Library

President John Moore called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm.

**I. Introduce Guests**

There were no guests.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2009**

Verbiscar motioned to accept the minutes from July 15, 2009 and Blackstock seconded. Motion passed.

**IV. Amend Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**V. Approve Consent Agenda:**

Means motioned to approve the consent agenda and BellCampton seconded. Motion passed.

**VI. Old Business:**

**a. District Library Director's Comments**

**Kindle:** Choszczyk demonstrated the new Kindle from Amazon, which displays magazines and newspapers through download subscriptions. The District is hoping to purchase two Kindles for each library through an LSTA grant, for which Mondschein applied. The Kindles satisfy ADA accessibility needs, as the text size can be enlarged and the machine will read aloud as well. In the grant request, Mondschein focused on the ADA aspect, as well as the fact that this is a rural area with few available newspapers.

**Storycorps:** NPR's Storycorps airstream trailer will be arriving at the Paonia Library on August 24. They will spend their first week in the Montrose Library, then return to Paonia afterward. A number of interview openings are still available and the libraries are really trying to advertise. Following the interviews, the Paonia Library will receive a full archive of the NPR interviews.

**Audit:** The audit has been completed and will be reviewed by the Finance Committee before the next meeting.

**Baby/Tot Programming:** (Duclo presenting) In an effort to bring more consistent baby and tot programming to Delta County, Health and Human Services has agreed to provide the money to bring weekly baby and tot times to all the libraries and the Delta Center. In addition to regular storytimes, there will be playgroups with qualified staff on hand to assess children for special needs and themed toy boxes that parents can check out. Daycares and preschools will also benefit from once a month programming. Storytimes will begin Labor Day week and the libraries will advertise extensively to make the public aware.

**Travelling After School Programs:** (Duclo presenting) Because of the success of Summer Reading travelling programs, the District plans to take programs around the county for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, and maybe others if opportunities arise.

**Summer Reading Program:** (Duclo presenting) The District had great promotion this year and, as a result, had much higher completion rate than in previous years. Participation in regular programs went way up as well, and interest lasted even after the official end of Summer Reading. Libraries found it difficult to get adults to attend programs and may try again over the winter when adults are more available.

**Big Read and Little Read:** (Morris presenting) The District will be hosting a Little Read in October based on the writings of Edgar Allen Poe, celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Events will include a kickoff party, crafts, movies, and dramatizations for all ages. The Big Read will take place in April 2010 and the District will need lots of participation from the community.

#### **b. Reports from Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, and Paonia**

- Cedaredge: LaDonna Gunn has received a Save Our History grant and is now working on a large ethnic diversity grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which will focus on cultural groups involved in agriculture in the County's history. She already has support from several area historical societies.
- Crawford: Landscaping is underway and Crawford has dreams of putting a large sculpture outside the library. A possibility is a sculpture of Chief Ouray, but this will not be possible without a major financial contributor. Other options include rotating art with other libraries, or a local artist who would donate work.
- Delta: The historical assessment grant proposal is underway. This grant will look at structural problems in the original Carnegie building and will be followed by a second grant to actually do the work. Original Carnegie blueprints have been located but the plans for the middle addition are still missing.
- Hotchkiss: New logo signs have been installed everywhere except for Delta.
- Paonia: Landscaping is underway, the fence has been ordered and the Town will be working on the drainage system soon.

#### **c. Staffing**

The Delta job opening has been filled by a candidate from Mesa County Libraries who has cataloging and programming experience.

Ali Lightfoot plans to leave the Paonia Library to work full time at KVNF. Her position will be listed soon.

Elliot Jackson's last day of employment will be September 15. She is currently working to help with the transition by creating a handbook and job descriptions.

**d. Budget priorities**

Choszczyk reported on the bad financial news from the County level, which was divided into four parts:

1. National economy—foreclosure, unemployment, and bankruptcy rates in Delta County have finally reached national levels, indicating that the County is about 2 months behind the national average.
2. Mines—revenue is down, layoffs are happening, and taxes are outstanding. This means about \$80,000 that the District usually receives may not be available. Oxbow mine is also moving out of Delta County, reducing that County income as well.
3. Reappraisal—property values have gone down, but the assessment will not figure in until 2012-14, which means that property tax revenues are expected to go down in the future.
4. Sales taxes—Down as low as 8% in June this year, reduced sales taxes will affect the District next year.

The County is looking at 5 year projections and Choszczyk plans to meet with bookkeeper Emma Neil to work out projections for the District. All of this information is indicating a cumulative drop of 14% in revenue for the County in the next 5 years, beginning with 2.5% next year. Expected recovery time is another 2-3 years. The County is already utilizing salary freezes, furloughs, and job sharing.

The District is working on grants to enhance County income, but will definitely be looking at a conservative budget and postponing ideas of a mill levy for the near future. The Finance Committee will meet and draft a budget outline to present at the September meeting.

**VII. Parking Lot**

District and Library Foundation Statutory Requirements remained in the parking lot.

**VIII. New Business:**

**a. Rich Sales contract recommendation**

Moore and Choszczyk provided a memo recommending that the Board approve the use of Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) services with regard to a new Cedaredge Library, and invite the Cedaredge Foundation Board to participate. This memo emerged as a result of a meeting with Rich Sales, director of the organization.

A lengthy discussion among Board members clarified that the CCCD services are non-binding and will in no way influence the hiring of an architect for the project when the time comes. CCCD is an organization experienced in working with libraries which provides a means for public input and thorough needs assessments at the beginning stages of a building project. Services are provided on a donation basis.

The next Board meeting will take place in Cedaredge on the same day as the Cedaredge Foundation meeting, and the Board offered to arrange a meeting together on that day or at a future time.

Blackstock moved that the Board ask Rich Sales to present to a joint meeting of this Board and the Cedaredge Foundation board, information on services the Colorado

Center for Community Development can provide to the District. BellCampton seconded. Verbiscar abstained. The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Comments**

Verbiscar has been conceptually exploring the future of libraries in Delta County and elsewhere, and proposed a “warehouse” system which would store the majority of books in a single warehouse location, allowing more space for computers, meetings, programming, and displays, and providing one collection for the entire District. Materials would be obtained through computer-placed requests and sent via courier to the requesting locations.

Choszczyk responded that these are good ideas and that the District is already moving into a single collection purchasing policy, where books are purchased based on County-wide demand, eliminating extra copies, and circulating more materials among the libraries. This process is cost effective and the libraries can still maintain their individual identities through programming and community outreach.

Long-term planning and budgeting will continue to require discussions as to the best means of serving the public with the money, locations, and materials available to the District.

**X. Adjourn**

There being no other business, BellCampton moved and Verbiscar seconded to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Motion passed.