



Library Board of Trustees
MINUTES OF BIMONTHLY MEETING

Westminster Library Meeting Room
Monday, May 20th, 2013, 5:30 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Danny Day, Sally Long, Becky Hetherington, Ellis Hughes, Alisa Champion Suddeth, Holly McPheeters, Bill Caster, Priscilla Taylor.

Library staff members in attendance: Philip Cheney, Director; Blair Hinson, Seneca Library Branch manager; Leah Price, Westminster Library Branch manager; and Meredith Wickham, Salem Library Branch manager.

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Day called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March 25th, 2013 were approved on a motion by Bill Caster, second by Ellis Hughes.
- III. **Public Comment**

Suzanne Peden commented upon the selection of a site for the new Seneca Branch that she would like the library to remain where it is today. She stated that she read in the *Seneca Journal* that the current library would need to be torn down to build a new library on the current site. She stated that there was a study done that showed three alternative ways of building the library on the current site without needing to tear down the current library facility. She is very much against the moving of the library to downtown Seneca, stating that it will not revitalize the area as some in city government believe. “If you build other buildings downtown, maybe. But the library alone is not going to make them come.”

Betty Dubose commented that a decision on a site needs to be made soon. “Otherwise, we risk losing the support that we have in the community.”
- IV. **Friends Report:**

Barbara Askew, President of the Friends, reported that book sales in April and May have been going very well, with receipts totaling \$3,095 to date. The Friends of the Library have made important contributions to the Summer Reading programs, both Adult and Youth versions, that are about to begin in June.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. **Finance –**

The library director distributed copies of the budget. Mr. Cheney explained that the County does not allow departments to transfer unexpended funds from salaries and benefits to other line items. There was also discussion of the current status of the State Library's FY14 budget at this point in the legislative process.

B. **Policy/Personnel – Sally Long**

Robena Barton has begun work as the new Technical Services Librarian. Caela Haney, Assistant to the Youth Services Librarian, and Meredith Wickham, Salem Branch Manager, have given their notices effective at the beginning of August. Lee Smith in Acquisitions will be leaving in October.

C. **Building and Grounds – Danny Day**

Issues with the HVAC at Walhalla Main Branch were corrected on Thursday, May 16, 2013.

D. **Community Relations – Ellis Hughes**

Ellis Hughes, Bill Caster, Becky Hetherington, and Priscilla Taylor met with Seneca Library Branch manager Blair Hinson and wrote the outline of a Communications Plan. They are awaiting a report from the Capital Project Advisory Committee to be able to flesh it out and write a final draft.

E. **Capital Projects – Alisa Champion Suddeth**

No report at this time.

VI. **Chairman's Report: Danny Day**

OCPL volunteer Ann Rogers received the South Carolina Governor's Direct Service Volunteer Award in recognition of her efforts in maintaining the South Carolina Room at the Walhalla Library. She was nominated by Seneca Circulation Assistant Megan LaVere, who also attended the ceremony in Columbia where the Governor presented the award to Ms. Rogers.

Chairman Day stated that, after considerable research, he has decided to set up an endowment for the library rather than a foundation. An endowment will be better for tax purposes. The Chairman met with Robert Rainey, President of the Foothills Community Foundation. Mr. Rainey has assisted the Anderson County Public Library in setting up its endowment. Chairman Day explained how an endowment works and how it can be used to support some of the library's objectives.

Trustee Hughes asked if it is the endowment that gets involved in the fundraising and marketing to convince the public to invest in the new Seneca Library. Chairman Day answered that the endowment is prohibited by law from engaging in any kind of political campaign.

VII. **Director's Report – Philip Cheney**

Director Cheney requested that Blair Hinson, Seneca Branch Manager, report on the status of the fiber project. Mr. Hinson announced that the long-awaited switchover to the County's fiber

broadband system occurred Friday, May 17, 2013. The process started at the Salem Library and it was a fairly uneventful process. Mr. Cheney reported that the Youth Services' Department had received two grants for the Summer reading program, one from Dollar General and the second from the State Library. The library's 2012 Dodge Caravan is being repaired from damage received when it was backed into the brick enclosure surrounding HVAC units at the Walhalla Library. The director attended the opening of the new Cherokee Museum in Walhalla on May 11, 2013. The museum should begin selling the Cherokee Indian Towns' maps soon. He noted that he had attended an Oconee County Chamber of Commerce event at which U.S. Senator Tim Scott and Congressman Jeff Duncan were the speakers. He reminded the Board of his upcoming presentation to the Capital Project Advisory Committee on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 in Council Chambers.

VIII. Old Business

The selection of a site for the new Seneca Library was discussed at length, with trustees reviewing the Providence Associates' study and going over the details of the potential for a penny sales tax to fund the construction and the referendum that would be required. After discussion, Chairman Day stated that he was willing to entertain a motion. Sally Long moved that the Board propose to County Council that the new Seneca Library be built at the site on Hwy 123 near the intersection of Hwy 123 and Hwy 130. The motion was seconded by Ellis Hughes. After further discussion, Becky Hetherington called for the vote. Bill Caster seconded the motion to end discussion and it was approved. The vote in favor of Mrs. Long's motion was four in favor and three opposed, with the chairman abstaining. Bill Caster, Ellis Hughes, Sally Long, and Priscilla Taylor voted in favor of the motion. Becky Hetherington, Alisa Champion Suddeth, and Holly McPheeters voted against the motion.

IX. New Business

Mr. Cheney presented a request to create two half-day staff training sessions, one in August, 2013 and one in February, 2014, noting that the meetings would be morning meetings and would be held at all four branches. Ellis Hughes moved to grant the request. Sally Long seconded the motion, and the motion passed without comment.

X. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.