

**SHASTA PUBLIC LIBRARY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Redding Library Community Room, 1100 Parkview Avenue, Redding, California
April 2, 2008**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Library Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Peggy O’Lea at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, with the following Committee Members present: Elaine Grossman, Connie Cleckler, and Missy McArthur. Also present were Interim Library Director Linda Mielke and LSSI Vice President of West Coast Operations Mark Smith.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consent Calendar

Approval of the consent calendar was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. Report by Shasta County on State Library Bond Construction Grant

Shasta County Administrative Assistant Julie Hope reported that the Library construction project officially closed in December 2006 and the audit with the Department of Finance began in April 2007. The County received the official audit report in November 2007 with no findings or exceptions. Ms. Hope reported that 98.4 percent of the grant funding was spent, which left about \$190,000 in grant funds plus \$90,000 in matching funds unused. Ms. Hope indicated that these figures were announced at the Library Project Team meetings in November and December 2006. Ms. Hope noted that if the proposed fountain had been built, the amount expended would have exceeded the grant. Eric Wedemeyer was supposed to go back to the Office of Library Construction (OLC) to see if there were other projects that might fit the remaining funds.

Committee Member Jelavich arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Ms. Hope continued her report noting that the audit could not begin until the project was officially closed. Ms. Hope said that the State owed the Library fund about \$1.2 million in reimbursements, New Library Now (NLN) had not turned in \$700,000 in pledged money, the City owed \$25,000, and there were other outstanding reimbursements of about \$850,000. Ms. Hope commented that if the Library fund would have gotten into a negative situation, then interest would have had to be paid to the County Treasurer from project funds. Ms. Hope reported that she emailed then Assistant City Manager Randy Bachman and County Administrative Officer Larry Lees in December 2006 asking to close the grant, and both parties concurred. Peggy O’Lea commented that she was at the meetings in November and December 2006, but she was always of the impression that even though the fountain was no longer an option, smaller projects were still being considered.

Missy McArthur expressed concern with the fact that the City and County were consulted about closing the grant, but the public and the Library groups were not. She also expressed deep disappointment because \$200,000 is a huge amount of money to raise and “giving it back” is very difficult.

Patte Jelavich commented that she also believed the remaining grant funds would be used on smaller projects that were being discussed.

Ms. Hope accepted some of the responsibility for the miscommunication that occurred. She noted that she was pulled off of the project and reassigned, and she may not have conveyed things to her successors as well as she could have. Peggy O’Lea noted that there was definitely some miscommunication regarding the type of funds and/or the name of the funds being addressed, which likely added to the confusion.

Ms. O’Lea asked if the NLN pledges have finally been paid. Ms. Hope indicated they had been collected and that she will have a better idea about the remaining amount in the fund once the fiscal year ends in July 2008 and the fund is audited in December 2008. Her “best guess” is that about \$150,000 will remain and be transferred to the City for Library use.

Ms. McArthur apologized for Ms. Hope’s stress over the project. Ms. Hope indicated that she completely understands the community’s disappointment over not utilizing the entire grant; however, she still feels she did a good job and she did the right thing by not letting the fund get into a negative situation. Ms. Jelavich noted that because of the fact that interest would have had to be paid on the grant were it kept open, the Library is probably still in the same place it would have been had the grant been kept open; but she wanted to emphasize that the lack of communication is the most disappointing thing. Ms. O’Lea highlighted that the Library project has been a very successful, collaborative effort overall; and, hopefully, the lack of communication will not happen on future projects.

A citizen in the audience asked if the County might possibly provide a written budget report to the Committee regarding Library funds. Ms. Hope indicated she could do that and suggested that January 2009 would be the best time for a report because the audit would be complete for the fiscal year.

5. Strategic Planning Update

Linda Mielke reported that a community focus group of 18 members has been selected. Peggy O’Lea noted that there is no representative from Anderson and suggested that one be appointed. Mark Smith said the focus group could discuss this at the first meeting tomorrow. Earl Blomquist volunteered, but Mr. Smith said it was not staff’s position to appoint Mr. Blomquist. Library staff was given orientation today concerning the strategic planning process. The meeting dates have been set and Ms. Mielke will provide the list to the Committee.

6. Crosswalk Update

Due to a family emergency on the part of Community Services Director Kim Niemer, this item was deferred to the May 2008 meeting.

7. Director's Comments

Interim Director Mielke passed out additional reports from the branch libraries and updated statistics to the Committee. She noted that National Library Week is April 13-19, 2008, and computer classes through Shasta College have been set up three days per week.

Committee Member McArthur left at 4:40 p.m.

Ms. Mielke discussed three major issues that faced her when she arrived. The first issue was a problem with people smoking directly in front of the building and that has been resolved. The second issue is concerning the handicap parking area being too far away from the building. Ms. Mielke suggested that the City might be able to help mitigate the problem. The third issue has to do with the walk from the main entrance to the children's area. Library patrons must pass the adult book section and some of the covers on the books can be very provocative. Ms. Mielke indicated that staff will try to remove those covers or keep them turned so they are not so obvious.

Ms. Mielke commented that it has been a pleasure working at the Redding Library and she is ready to head home to Maryland. She noted that the new Director, Jan Erickson, is very easy to talk to and work with.

Jim Ceragioli of the Friends of the Library suggested restriping the parking lot and putting the handicap parking area next to the building on the west side.

Patte Jelavich referenced a news report regarding teenagers doing drugs/sex in the restrooms in the park. Mark Smith noted that security is helping with teen control issues, but a reporter did come in and wanted staff to comment on how bad the teenagers are. Staff refused to comment.

Ms. Jelavich also asked about cigarette receptacles, whether there are enough and/or the correct kind. Ms. Mielke noted that people tend to just throw them on the ground and she suggested that the City post a sign instructing people to use the receptacles.

8. Committee Comments

Connie Cleckler reported that a home school teacher had visited the Library and was thrilled about the new smoking ordinance.

Peggy O'Lea informed the group that a collective Rotary grant in the amount of \$44,500 was received for the Family Literacy Program.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Peggy O'Lea, Chairperson