

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT  
Board of Trustees Public Meeting**

*January 9, 2006*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. at Washougal Community Library.

**2. PRESENT**

Chair Jerry King presiding. Board members: Jack Burkman, Jerry King, Merle Koplan (via telephone), Karen Peterson, Elena Smith, Rose Smith and Bill Yee. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Doreen Turpen, District Resources Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director; Mary Devlin, Community Libraries Director; and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Melinda Chesbro, Nancy Sawrey, David Starke, Jessie Kovic, Don and Jane Higgins, Lethene Parks, Carrie Parks, David Black, Nancy McCarter, Chris Hughey, Juanita Greenway, Michael Turnauer, Dan Durringer, Margaret Tweet, Jane Jackson, David Zavortink, Sandy Glover and Mary Repar.

**3. BOARD DISCUSSION ON LIBRARY INTERNET ACCESS**

King explained that the board had invited and received more than 400 citizen comments on the topic of library Internet access during the past month. The board has read all the comments, which expressed many different viewpoints. He explained that the purpose of this part of the meeting was for the board to have a discussion; it is the board's opportunity to express their ideas and thoughts on this topic. He noted that there would be no action on the topic tonight. At the end of the discussion, the board hopes to narrow it down to several policy options that staff would then further refine, for possible action at the February board meeting.

King welcomed the meeting facilitator, Debbie Nelson. Nelson explained the ground rules. She said that the public has had an opportunity to give input over the past month. Tonight, this is the public's opportunity to listen. She encouraged the public and board members to listen with an open mind and really hear what others have to say. Nelson also encouraged the board not to debate but to openly share thoughts.

Koplan, who was participating via telephone, asked that it be noted that she would be paying for the phone call as she chose to participate long distance.

Ziegman explained some background on this issue. He started by citing our mission statement: "Fort Vancouver Regional Library District provides gateways

to ideas, information and community interaction for the people of Southwest Washington.” He then explained the history of Internet access at the library:

- October 1995: Internet first introduced at main library (unfiltered)
- August 1996: Internet at all branches (unfiltered)
- February 1998: Optional filtering consisting of “Guided Search Engines” introduced at all locations
- August 1999: New technology allows parents to lock in filtering or no Internet access for their own children
- April 2000: Recessed monitors introduced to reduce inadvertent viewing & protect privacy
- August 2003: Added default filtered access for kids under age 13; only parents can change their access
- April 2004: CIPA-compliant policy implemented: Filtered access for all; only those 17 and over can disable filter for themselves
- July 2004: Computers with unfiltered access separated where possible, with separate printers
- December 2005-February 2006: Current board discussion

Ziegman also explained what other libraries are doing for Internet access. FVRL is one of 153 members of Urban Libraries Council (ULC), a national organization of libraries. ULC did a poll of their membership for us and 72 responded. The question that was asked: “Regarding the filtering of sexually explicit images on public-accessible library computers, does your library have mandatory filtering for everyone, no one, for those under the age of 17 as called for by the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), or other?” Ziegman gave the results of this poll:

- Filter for everyone: 27 libraries (37%)
- Filter for no one: 17 libraries (23%)
- Filter for those under age 17 (CIPA compliant): 18 libraries (25%)
- Other: 11 libraries (15%)

Staff member Jessie Kovic researched Internet policies of libraries in the I-5 corridor in Oregon and Washington. A majority in Washington are CIPA-compliant. A few have no filtering at all and a few have mandatory filtering for everyone. Many Oregon libraries filter by policy rather than by technology, in conjunction with Oregon Revised Statute 167.080 that addresses displaying of obscene materials to minors. Some Oregon libraries feel this statute applies to them while others believe that they fall under the exemption given at ORS 167.087.

Bill Yee asked about the importance of being CIPA-compliant, specifically, if there is more to it than the loss of e-rate funding. Ziegman said that this is the first law put in place by the federal government and many libraries were relieved that these guidelines were provided. He also noted that by being compliant, the district receives \$2,500 in “e-rate” refunds, which is a small amount. Yee asked if raising the age for mandatory filtering to 18, or having mandatory filtering for all ages, would cause us to no longer be compliant? Ziegman said this hasn’t been

tested. In our case, we would interpret that we shouldn't apply for the refund. Each state's State Library determines whether you are compliant. Ziegman said that North Central Regional Library filters everyone and the State Library has deemed them compliant. Koplan asked if we could be sued for non-compliance by filtering everyone? Ziegman said that if we don't claim funding then we couldn't be sued. King noted that CIPA provides a national standard but that it's not something that we are required to do.

Ziegman explained a chart depicting some policy options for the board to consider. The options reflect comments we have heard from the community and include:

- No Public Internet
- Select & Subscribe (select Web sites like we select books)
- Current Policy
- Current Access Plus (includes raising the age for unfiltered access to 18, putting the monitors on the desktop and setting standards for Internet viewing)
- Full filtering for all ages plus viewing restrictions
- No filtering, but set standards for Internet viewing and put monitors on the desktops

Ziegman noted that these were just ideas and that there may be additional ideas or the board may wish to modify the "package" for one or more of the options.

Nelson commended the board for requesting feedback from the public. Hundreds of comments have been received. It's become a very personalized and polarized issue for some people. She said some people might also have mixed feelings. It's impossible to make everyone happy.

Nelson commented on how the Internet has changed our world in a short period of time. The benefits are profound and innovations are appearing daily. From the Internet we can get news, world events and medical information that saves lives. It's available to low income and isolated people. Email connects family and friends and you can search for anything using massive search engines like Google. There is also pornography, hate speech and terrorist "how to" guides. Violent sites bring offensive images, especially for people who aren't prepared, and chat rooms can lead to encounters with predators. The Web came without a set of rules.

Nelson asked the board for their thoughts on the purpose for offering the Internet in the library and how it fits the library's Mission and purpose?

- King said this is a new means of learning. Libraries have existed as places to go for information, entertainment and good books. The Internet came up with a new format for providing this, and in some ways it's much more efficient.
- Bill Yee said the Internet is the same as books. He remembers when he went to the library as a student in Portland, looking through books to get material

for his reports. Kids don't do that now; they get all their information online. He added that it's also entertainment.

- Peterson added that the Internet gives you multiple perspectives where one book gives you one perspective. There is also value in the speed at which you can link to other things, widening your understanding more quickly.
- Burkman noted that the Internet provides access to non-mainstream sources of information. In the past, we relied on this from pamphlets. He also said that Internet users must determine if a source of information is valid or not.
- R. Smith said that it's a learning tool for education and research, but it's also a communication tool.
- E. Smith said she agrees with all the statements but there is still great value in books. The Internet has made our world a smaller place but it's not an end-all to having information – books are important and people need to know how to use both sources of information. E. Smith said we shouldn't throw out a tool because some don't know how to use it.
- Koplan said the Internet has brought a lot of things into the library that a librarian hasn't selected. While a librarian verifies a book's source for accountability (for example, verifying its publisher and author), there's no accountability on the Internet.

Board members expressed agreement that the Internet is a tool that fits the library district's Mission.

Next, Nelson asked board members to express their concerns about the Internet:

- R. Smith said she went to the Renton library over the weekend. Their public Internet access is filtered for all ages. If the filter inappropriately blocks a site, a patron can fill out a request card to have the site unblocked. R. Smith said a librarian there told her they had been concerned about sexual harassment of their staff by patrons. R. Smith expressed concern for FVRL staff and the potential for sexual harassment from patrons who print porn and display it or leave it somewhere.
- King said that in his interactions at church and with several organizations he belongs to, as well as in his other community activities, he hasn't heard many concerns or seen for himself problems with the Internet. Not many people have come up to him and mentioned concerns, including when he door belled four large precincts in Vancouver during the last election and asked people if they had any messages to give to board. Out of several hundred contacts, only had a few mention Internet porn. The board has received many letters from people who are very concerned and we've heard comments at board meetings, so King said he is trying to balance his personal experience with the well-intentioned comments of those who are very serious about this. He also said he hasn't heard that it's been a problem for staff here in Vancouver.
- Burkman said his concern is that we end up with a system that is family-friendly both in fact and in perception. His experience in using the library with his family has been positive with both early learning and story hours. Burkman said if people perceive it's not safe and as a result, don't bring their

families here, then we aren't meeting one of our goals. From the comments we've received, Burkman said he is hearing that there's a question of whether the library is a good place to be.

- Peterson said there is also a perception that the library is not a safe place. While there have been very few abuses of our services and very few negative incidents, those incidents tend to get a lot of press and leave people thinking it's not safe. Peterson spoke about personal responsibility and questioned whose responsibility is it to police or regulate public and private behavior. This is an unclear area, but she encouraged the idea of personal responsibility and suggested that perhaps the board set a policy to that nature.
- Yee said kids and families should feel comfortable coming to the library and mothers should feel good sending their kids there too. People that want to use the library's resources to do research and get information should also be able to do so. So he is trying to see how to balancing the two uses of the library so that everyone will want to visit it, use its resources and feel safe.
- E. Smith said she doesn't have concerns herself about the way people are using the Internet. She said she hasn't heard from staff that people are using the library inappropriately. She noted that the programs at FVRL are really crowded with children, so it appears to her there's every reason to think children and families feel safe here. She noted that she didn't turn her own kids loose in malls and movie theaters, which are large less-safe public spaces. She said that people can let fear become so strong that it dictates policies; that otherwise ordinary people end up dictating a mandate because they are afraid. She said fear has been nurtured in this community to the extent that it's being perceived as a possible truth.
- Koplan said the community is concerned about pornography on the Internet. She thinks many people are using the library to express their anger because it's the only place they feel they have any say. During the last election, Koplan also door belled and many people told her they hate what's going on with the internet and wished it wasn't at the library.
- King said he's very concerned about public perception, but thinks one thing we need to do is get more information out to the public. For example, many of the comments we received included concern about inadvertent viewing, which has been addressed with the current arrangement of our Internet computers. People that expressed this concern likely haven't been to the library for a while. He sees a need to educate the public.

Nelson asked the board if they saw any difference in filtering for adults and kids?

- King said our policy has recognized there is a difference and that he'd be willing to raise minimum age for unfiltered access to 18.
- Burkman said there are adults who use filters because they don't want to accidentally see anything objectionable. The library has dramatically reduced the possibility of inadvertent viewing, but some want there to be no possibility. Do we offer a choice in how much we protect people from seeing something they might find objectionable? He said this is similar to whether you use glasses or not – how much do you want to see?

- R. Smith said she wants full filtering for children and adults like what is done at the Renton library. She has heard major concerns from people while working in the community and has not heard anyone say to her they don't want filters. R. Smith said she lives in north Clark County and everyone she has talked to there want full filters. She said we could still unblock certain sites that get over blocked.
- King noted that the library would filter obscenity (illegal material) for everyone soon, thanks to a filter upgrade.
- Peterson said there is a distinction that you become an adult at age 18. Kids developmentally are not sophisticated enough to have full Internet access unless someone is there with them, in case they inadvertently see something explicit. Peterson said adult behavior is a separate issue. There is generally a different set of rules for adults and children and so there are separate questions about access.
- Yee said he's read hundreds of responses sent in by people. Many of them say to get porn out of the library. Does filtering take out the porn that they are referring to? People have said you know what porn is when you see it. Everyone may have a different perception. Also, does our filter block based on pictures or speech? Ziegman said it's a combination of filtering specific words and specific web sites. They can go through manually and with machines to block out sites. Yee asked about the content that is blocked with the filter, and Ziegman said our basic filter blocks sexually explicit sites while the optional enhanced filter blocks violence, hate, gambling, and a number of other categories. Koplman said that in light of the difficulty with this discussion, that we just limit the topic to address sexually explicit material. Burkman said we're always going to get feedback about what we have in library. Predominately we're hearing that there's concern about the sexually explicit material, mainly images. Agreement was expressed on this.
- Ziegman said that from conversations he's had and emails he's read, the biggest concern he's heard has to do with spending tax dollars on this kind of material.

Nelson asked the board to speak to the topic of intellectual freedom:

- Burkman said it's core to libraries to provide information, but the question is how we provide that information. If we have filtering and there's a request for something that's not immediately available, the material could still be accessible by going to librarian and unblocking the site. Burkman said he did not feel it would be appropriate to not allow for unblocking of sites that the filter over-blocks.
- King said information must be available. For some, entertainment is not the same as information and therefore some think entertainment shouldn't be protected. He said the library should protect people's right to have this. The library has many books that are purely for entertainment, and as an example he mentioned sports. He doesn't feel it's his place to choose what is banned.
- Koplman said we don't provide sexually explicit books. E. Smith disagreed and said there are lots of sexually explicit books in the library. Burkman added

that we'd acquire material through Interlibrary Loan if we didn't have it in our collection. Koplán clarified her statement, saying she meant we do not have the sexual material that is of a commercial nature and Burkman agreed, noting that this would mean things like X-rated movies.

Nelson said some citizens asked for a policy that would have zero tolerance for porn, including books and the Internet. She asked board members to address this request:

- E. Smith said she is in favor of filtering for young children but not for adults. She feels there should be a choice for adults, like in our current policy. She also noted that we got many letters from citizens who asked the board to protect their civil liberties. In an email received today, a man wrote that the board has, "the awesome responsibility to be an entity that doesn't regulate access for adults."
- Yee said the young researcher of today is not the same as the older generation. Young people want the information now. They expect immediate gratification. Adults have to fight their way through a filter to do legitimate research and might find it insulting to have to go through a librarian to open up a site.
- Burkman said that the filters are a great deal better today than they were in the past, allowing a wealth of information through. His experience has been that most of the information is there.
- Koplán said she doesn't consider Internet porn to be part of intellectual freedom.

At a previous meeting, Koplán had asked board members to do some sensitive searches on the library's filtered computers to see for themselves how much information gets through. She asked if they had done so and what they had found.

- Burkman said he was able to find a lot of information in all the searches he tried. He said the challenge of the Internet is "you don't know what you don't know." He estimates that 90% of research could be found with the basic filter turned on. Peterson agreed.
- King said his concern previously was that young people needing access to information about sexuality would not be able to find it. For example, a youth wanting information on homosexuality. King said the filters now allow information from all the major web sites, such as Planned Parenthood and others. However, King said this doesn't change his mind about allowing full access to adults.
- E. Smith said that she's used filters and does not trust them. Filters continue to allow clearly pornographic sites to come through. Burkman said that the filters are in a different place now; however there's possibility for people to by-pass it. Also there is an issue of visibility: when you sequester it away, how much are you helping and how much are you hurting?

Nelson asked if board members saw the need to have a process in place that addresses changes in the Internet and in the situation?

- Burkman said that one way this works is that the community initiates a request for change. We're finding new ways to get feedback and it's something we can work on.
- Peterson said that listening to library staff is also critical. They have knowledge about filters, policies and processes that they can inform us about.
- King said the board has set a goal to review policies on a cycle. However, he wouldn't mind reviewing this policy more often. King said it's an important issue and the board has a responsibility to discuss issues first before looking to staff to suggest what they think we should do. The staff can inform the board about technical aspects of implementation.

Koplan said she did extensive searching of the filtered Internet. Even with our basic filter, searches allow full frontal nudity to get through. She was on a web site through a Google search looking at nude photography. She saw beautiful pictures of the nude body, plus she saw that some areas were blocked for legitimate reasons. She said the filters are sensitive in allowing good content but blocking parts of sites according to its criteria. It allows David's Michelangelo and nude art photos. She's concerned about offensive, obscene photos on commercial sites.

Burkman commended staff for their research on the policies of other libraries. He said he could see that many libraries are wrestling with the same issues. He said we need our policy to address what is inappropriate. Burkman also noted that our current arrangement with the computers monitors recessed inhibits us from monitoring Internet activity. We could have a policy that states what is inappropriate and place the monitors on the desktop.

King said he thinks there are upright citizens who want to view porn and may choose to do so at library rather than at home. He said this is their right and we should protect it, so long as no children can see it and there's no misbehavior going on.

Burkman suggested developing wording that would address inappropriate behavior related to Internet viewing in the library. King said he would only want to ban illegal material (obscenity). Peterson said she's in favor of the option called "Current Access Plus" which addresses the idea of adding a behavior policy and some physical changes in the environment.

Yee asked for clarification: we currently don't allow illegal material, so Burkman and Peterson's suggested policy change would go beyond that to block additional material. Yee said he doesn't want to see porn in the library either, but worries about what the definition of porn is because everyone has a different view. Some think porn includes alternative lifestyles. Each of us has a different idea. He doesn't want a filter to take away the ability of adults to legally use the Internet for research. A policy is only as good as your enforcement of it.

Burkman encouraged that we start with the policy and ask staff to help us determine how to enforce it. Ziegman said that the Current Policy Plus option would be very staff intensive. Peterson noted that the number of unfiltered Internet terminals have been reduced, which would reduce the number that need monitoring.

E. Smith said she's not comfortable dictating what people cannot look at. She said she feels it's okay to move furniture around to prevent inadvertent viewing and asking people to be mindful of others. She expressed concern that some consensus is trying to be reached during this discussion.

R. Smith said she thinks people shouldn't look at porn in the library. We have to represent our community no matter what our personal beliefs are. E. Smith agreed, but said she's heard many support full access and she's standing up for them.

Koplan said she's been steadfast in wanting to have filters to control the seedy material on the Internet. She wants the filters and a policy on behavior.

Nelson asked the board to consider taking off the table the options they do not want. Board members agreed they do not want to consider these options:

- No Public Internet
- Select & Subscribe (select Web sites like we select books)
- No filtering, but set standards for Internet viewing and put monitors on the desktops

This leaves these three options:

- Current Policy
- Current Access Plus (includes raising the age for unfiltered access to 18, putting the monitors on the desktop and setting standards for Internet viewing)
- Full filtering for all ages plus viewing restrictions

Ziegman suggested that staff work with the remaining three options for board discussion next month. Burkman asked how the board could have a discussion next month that goes step-by-step with decisions along the way? King said he senses there is disagreement about many items. He said that there will be a division of opinion and he thinks it's very healthy and typical. Burkman and Peterson agreed and E. Smith said that the board is indeed representative of what has been heard from the community. Koplan said that whatever is decided, we need to be committed to supporting the board as a whole. She encouraged board members to do searches on the library's filtered and unfiltered Internet computers so you know the facts of what the filters are actually doing.

King agreed that it's important to be supportive of the library and staff regardless of the outcome on this issue. Peterson said she hopes we could then move on to

the issue of the bond measure. Burkman agreed and said we received a lot of testimony on this issue at election time.

The board agreed it would continue to take written and email comments from citizens, incorporating any new ideas into their next discussion.

#### 4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Michael Turnauer said he lives in east Vancouver. As a parent with two small children, he affirms the library's current Internet policy and said his wife, who couldn't attend tonight, agrees with him. He said it's a perfectly reasonable policy because minors can only use filtered access. He doesn't feel adults should have to deal with the filters. Levies are being held hostage by this issue and he said he hopes the board will continue to stand tall and not allow a small group with a narrow agenda to hijack this issue and take away our ability to make choices for ourselves.

Dan Durringer said he lives in Washougal. He feels viewing porn in public libraries is not appropriate. People opposed to porn didn't feel that it was helpful to put the monitors below the desktop because no one can monitor what's going on. Also, he said there was an ability to circumvent filters by going to certain web sites.

Margaret Tweet thanked the board for their discussion and said she appreciates the homework done by R. Smith in looking at a library using full filtering. Tweet said she has looked at Tacoma's policy. Tacoma feels porn entertainment is beyond their mission and that the Internet is for research. They don't offer gaming because they consider it outside their mission. She likes it because it's a limited resource and allows it to be used for research. In our schools and facilities that serve youth there is full filtering. Tweet said any agency that serves youth has the responsibility to protect them. Allentown Public Library's Internet policy states their system may not be used to obtain pornographic material. Tacoma also has this statement in their policy. Tweet said some people have purposely left porn printouts and objectionable material on computer screens to "get someone's goat." She's also been concerned about illegal child porn and said she's glad to hear that this will be fully filtered soon, especially since computer screens are recessed and there's no other way to monitor it.

Carrie Parks said she's concerned about porn and censorship. How do you define porn? It may not be the same for everyone. How does she have the right to say what people look at? Our country is great because it allows mingling of all kinds of people and ideas. Filtering is too much like censorship. Schools got together to ban the book, *Alice Doesn't Want to Live Here Anymore*. They didn't really know what the book was about except that it talked about drugs. They didn't know that the book is about a teenage girl who got into drugs and then tried to commit suicide, and that the book is a warning to other people written by the girl's father. Parks said reading the book made her not want to use drugs and had

a positive impact on her life. People jump on a bandwagon and promote something without really looking at the whole thing. We live in a free society and have the right to make choices.

Mary Repar said she is a retired major of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and that there are 17 and 18-year-olds dying in Iraq that are considered to be adults. She said they see a lot more porn in Iraq than they do on Internet, and here we are talking about trying to filter their access. She said she doesn't want her tax dollars used for bombs, but they are. Our policy works for her and she thinks it works for a lot of parents who want to make decisions for their children. She said she didn't see that it would work for staff to monitor people's computers. If she decides she wants to do a paper on porn, it's no ones business. She also asked the board to define porn. Is it obscenity, is it nudity, or is it two people of the same sex kissing? She said the Supreme Court couldn't come up with a good definition of it. Repar said that libraries are the last bastions of democracy.

A woman named Laura said she knows about good parenting skills and these skills are paramount. She said this includes not leaving it up to others to do your work for you. If you do a good job, that will translate into your behavior. If kids aren't responsible, then it's the parent that needs to look at what they are doing. Also, what is porn? On temples in India, they have pornographic statues right in the religious buildings where everyone including the children can see. The Statue of David is male genitalia. Seeing nudity doesn't terrify kids; in fact, she said they think it's perfectly natural. Kids find comfort in breasts from the time they are born. Why take it away from adults if a baby can view it any time they are hungry? What some see as porn might be medical information to others, for example breastfeeding and gynecological disease. People may not feel comfortable doing the research at home where family or friends could see, so they go to library. She said vocal zealots that wave porn flag are trying to force the library into something that's not good. She said any time you wave something like a bond in front of people and they force you to this, that's prostitution.

Lethene Parks said she went through something with another library district where people were trying to use porn as a way to obscure funding for the library. She's been accused of being passionate about libraries because she feels they are one of the last bastions of freedom in this country. Libraries are places where we can explore new ideas and learn things. Parks said she would rather see no filtering at all, but understands it's not practical and within the law. She asked the board to keep filtering as minimal as possible. She's used libraries all over this country and has never seen any porn on a computer screen.

Nancy McCarter said she is opposed to porn but also opposed to censorship. She said those aren't exclusive and that you can oppose both. She regulates porn for herself because she's not interested in it. If her young ones go to library, she's with them. She said that community standards shouldn't trump our freedom.

Juanita Greenway said she wanted to get a better understanding of this issue and she has mixed feelings about filtering. She comes from east coast. She feels this is one of last bastions of free speech and freedom. She believes that children, whether that's up to age 17 or 18, should be able to use filtered computers. She hates porn and thinks it's very harmful, but although she came in here thinking this is out of the library's mission, she has to think that if you have a legitimate reason to search sexually explicit material, you have no place to go as an adult. She agrees with screening for kids but not for adults. She said to treat adults like adults.

Jane Jackson said that in many countries porn could get a death sentence. Sexual harassment could get mean a death sentence. In the Middle East, sexuality is prohibited. She asked if the issue is selective conservatives, or picky-choosy, in terms of filtering? In the Bible, she has found stuff that makes her gag and that she wouldn't want her child to read, yet conservatives encourage us to read the Bible. If they want censorship, it would have to include the Bible. You can't pick and choose. They need to be careful of what you ask for.

5. **AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented, with the exception that Citizen Comments were taken at the start of the regular meeting.

6. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 12, 2005 meeting were approved as emailed.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

8. **BUSINESS**

A. Expenditure Approval

**MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the accounts payable, payroll and payroll payables as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area Expenditure Approval

**MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.**

C. 2006 Board Committee Assignments

King said that reviewing committee assignments is one of the first duties of the Chair each year. The board has decided to retain last year's slate of officers for another year, and so King proposed that the board also retain the same committee assignments except that Bill Yee would replace Marilyn Butler who has retired from the board. King said he had emailed

this suggestion to the board earlier and has heard no disagreement. No disagreement was expressed, so the committee assignments will be as presented.

## 9. REPORTS

### A. Branch News

Devlin's written report is attached. She introduced the Washougal library's Circulation Supervisor, Nancy Sawrey, who reported on activities at the branch. Highlights from her report:

- Patrons give back to the community through the library. For example, a patron developed a series of Family Art Mornings for the library. Also, Mount Norway Children's Theatre performed *Anne of Green Gables* for senior citizens, which was co-sponsored by the library. Salvage Safari, a local business, gave prizes for Teen Summer Reading and in conjunction with the library, contributed supplies for kids' bike decorations used in the Washougal Frontier Days parade.
- A teen group interested in Anime meets at the library regularly. They are so self-sufficient that they run their meetings themselves and the library is delighted to provide space and time for them. The library was also pleased to provide space to a community member who wanted to display memorabilia that told the story of her grandparents in Russia during World War II.
- A teacher from Riverside Christian School asked if the library could host a book discussion group. The library was pleased to do so, and is also providing books and snacks via the Friends.
- Examples were shared about what it means to a small branch that belong to a library system. It included appreciation from a volunteer who attended the annual Volunteer Reception at the Main library, and gratitude from a community member for the outreach provided to them via the bookmobile.

### B. FVRL Foundation Update

Foundation Board member Jane Higgins shared details from Rick Smithrud's written report, which is attached.

## 10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ziegman said that during December, he took some vacation time and that he has spent considerable time with his staff working on preparations for the board's discussion of library Internet access.

## 11. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Juanita Greenway asked what other communities in our district expect to have library building projects. King said the Friends of Battle Ground library have a project underway and that there has been community efforts for new libraries in

Woodland and Washougal, as well as the need for a larger Cascade Park and Main library.

**12. BOARD COMMENTS**

R. Smith requested that we invite teens to come to our meetings occasionally, to report on teen programs and the Young Adult Advisory Boards (YAAB). The rest of the board agreed that it would be great to hear from them. King noted that Young Adult Coordinator Trish Segal has reported previously to the board but that it would be good to hear from the teens directly too.

Peterson thanked library staff for their work in reporting on Internet access in other libraries and in compiling patron comments.

E. Smith thanked all those who wrote emails to the board. She said she appreciated hearing from people and that it was clear there are a lot of people supporting more than one side.

**13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2006. [The meeting location has been moved to Vancouver.]

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

***These minutes were approved at the February 13, 2006 board meeting***

## Community Libraries Report For December 2005

### PROGRAMS

- Ridgefield's Narnia party, held on December 7, was a delight for all ages. The library took advantage of an offer from Walden Media and received sixty free copies of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* to give to children at the party. The company also supplied a display wardrobe, complete with a lighted lamppost entrance to Narnia. The Narnia art contest drew entrants aged 8 to 76, the trivia contest demonstrated strong interest in the story, and a variety of crafts provided lots of fun.
- Woodland began their Head Start program again on December 12th. Two classes came to the library for a tour, storytime and book gathering time. The children and teachers had a great visit and look forward to coming again. Head Start will be coming to the library every other month in 2006.
- Cascade Park had active participation in the Read-It-Forward program. Andy Parsons decorated a box for the Narnia books and actively promoted the books to the public. Within 4 days all 50 books had been taken. The branch asked for and received 17 more books and these too seemed to fly out of the box.
- Bridget Cain-Bushman did the last storytime of the year at La Center (replacing Jen Swingruber who is out on maternity leave) and helped the kids make pinecone ornaments with a glue wash and lots of glitter. They had a fun and "sticky" time! Many of the grownups mentioned how much they liked the snowman stories and the pinecone craft.
- Three Creek's Super Saturday Winter Celebration was a very popular program with 275 in attendance. Two local high school choir groups provided music at the program for over two hours.
- Barbra Meisenheimer (Vancouver Mall) led a Hanukkah program at the Montessori School. She explained the origins of the holiday and lighted candles on a menorah. Though she wasn't sure how much they got out of the stories, Barbra noted that the children really enjoyed watching the candles burn.
- Three Creeks had a special Toddler Sock Hop program. Nearly 50 attended and all had lots of fun.
- The Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre presented "Anansi the Spider: Two Stories" in the Stevenson gallery. The children were fascinated by the puppet construction, and they enjoyed an extended question and answer session after the performance.

### YOUNG ADULTS

- Washougal's W.A.C.K.O. Anime group met four times in December. The informal meeting on the 24th was memorable since one of the teens arrived wearing a wet suit, facemask, and snorkel. The group is also interested in taking a trip to Uwajimaya in Portland and holding a cherry blossom festival in the spring.

- Ridgefield's YAAB members were a tremendous help in assembling the large wardrobe display for the library's Narnia party. They also helped with other preparations, with decorations, and with the craft tables.
- Cascade Park celebrated the fact that everyone in the teen book discussion group had read the discussion book -- a first. The book was *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. It generated a lively discussion --- one girl even brought 2 pages of notes she had made about the book.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- The owners of the Firehouse Café in La Center were leaving for a family trip to Mexico and had mentioned to Bridget Cain-Bushman (Woodland / La Center) that they had wanted to get some books on Mexican culture but couldn't find the time to come to the library. So, Bridget brought some books to the café while on her lunch break. The owner held the books up and told all the diners, "The librarian brought me these books on Mexico—now that's service!"
- Mike Jansen (Three Creeks) met with representatives of the Department of Public Works and Washington State Department of Transportation to get updates on the Salmon Creek Interchange project.
- Rachel Kuerzinger (Washougal) led a book discussion for 3rd and 4th graders from Riverside Christian School and home schools. Six students and six parents attended. The Washougal Friends provided snacks.
- On December 3, the White Salmon library had a surprise visit from the White Salmon Jazz Band. They played a variety of seasonal music on saxophone, trumpet, & trombone.
- Ridgefield contributed library business cards and the "It's Your Library" flyer to Welcome Bags being prepared by the Ridgefield Business Association. This is the second round of bags—250 were previously distributed. Ridgefield Friends included copies of their membership application.
- Naomi Fisher gave her quarterly library update over the KLCK radio station. Her featured promotions were for preschool story times and the YAAB.
- Community members are still expressing interest in building a new Woodland Community Library. At the Chamber gathering, Woodland councilperson JJ Burke let Bridget (Woodland/La Center) know that the city was "ready to jump, when [the library] say[s] jump."
- Twenty-six dedicated 4-H'ers and their leaders met all day in Stevenson's library gallery on December 28. The group was studying government, the Bill of Rights, and how laws are made. Two members were Japanese exchange students who were having some language difficulties. Some excellent "J" books were found for the leaders to use and all were very pleased. Chris Hughey invited the group to return for a lesson in how to use the library databases.

- Ann O'Reilly (Ridgefield) represented the library and the Ridgefield Business Association on the committee that chose the 2005 Citizen of the Year award.

## **EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS**

- Fabric artist Joan Ahlers provided the perfect gallery show for White Salmon's Friends' Annual Holiday Wassail. The exquisite fabric quilted collages in vibrant colors provided a festive and warm backdrop for the holiday events.
- White Salmon staff member Tricia Dunn and her daughter Nicole created a seasonal display of gingerbread houses and trains. The two worked for weeks handcrafting the holiday village with exquisite detail. Enthusiastically received by community members of all ages, younger children in particular have shown high interest in it as they routinely sniff around the edges of the display case door to capture the full aroma of the gingerbread.

## **STAFF**

- Woodland (and La Center) has a new patron: Stuart Swingruber was born to Woodland's Asst IV, Jen Swingruber, on Wednesday, December 21st. Mother, father and baby are doing great!
- Lynne Minnick was hired as Vancouver Assistant Community Librarian beginning January 3. She has experience at Eastern Kentucky University and Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library.

## **BOOKMOBILES**

- The Clark County bookmobile made a special run for the Yale Valley Christmas Bazaar. Information Services librarian Carole Bryan went along and made two presentations in the Yale school library on using the FVRL catalog and searching electronic databases.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

- Adam, a regular Battle Ground volunteer, was absolutely thrilled when he received a CD from the Battle Ground library staff. He had previously mentioned that he loved a song from a certain artist, and one of the Battle Ground staff members ordered the CD for him. It was quite touching; Adam jumped up and down and said "yes" over and over again. He must have thanked everybody a hundred times that day.

## **LITERACY & ESL**

- The Battle Ground Friends co-sponsored (with Clark College) a reception for the literacy tutors at Battle Ground High School. Literacy Program Coordinator Nettie Pullella-Barca

was honored with a plant and a Barnes & Nobel gift certificate. The following morning Nettie attended the Battle Ground Library's staff meeting to give updates on the literacy program and share stories about how it is changing lives.

- Vancouver Community Library's Conversation Circle participants and volunteers had a holiday potluck with a wide assortment of international foods.

## FRIENDS

- The White Salmon Friends hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Wassail. Performances included Trout Lake pianist, Judy Skelton, the Fourth Dimension harmony quartet, and Diane and Roger Gadway (fiddle, acoustic guitar, and ukulele). Artisans included Wayne Stone of Underwood (woodcarver), Northwest Regional Spinning Association representatives, and Bill, Mary and Murphy Jackson of Parkdale (rock hounds).
- Ridgefield's Friends are benefiting from the gratitude of a patron who left \$40 in a library book. The library was able to return the money to the patron and he then donated \$10 to the Friends. The title of the book? *Christmas in July!*
- Goldendale had a publication party for the Friends of the Library the night the first copies of their book of Klickitat county stories became available to the public. Since then the Friends have sold nearly 1500 copies of "*Bluelight to Pucker Huddle: Discovering Klickitat County*". (Even the State Library called to find out how to get a copy!) Over 60 people attended the reception, and local authors were there to sign books and read samples of their stories. A local jazz pianist provided background music while attendees enjoyed cake, punch and good conversation. Everyone on the steering committee is proud of the book and equally glad to be done with the hard work of publishing.
- Vancouver, Three Creeks, Ridgefield and Stevenson Friends each had very successful book sales.
- Woodland Friends' 2006 historic calendar has almost sold out.
- Cascade Park Friends raised money by doing gift wrap for purchases at Borders.

## DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- Battle Ground Friends president Alex Mintz received \$1000 from the local Lions Club, now a new Cornerstone Member.
- The Foundation received a \$500 donation to the Kelly Patterson Fund to support Vancouver's Discussion Junction program.
- Mr. And Mrs. White donated \$250 to the Three Creeks Library.

## TIDBITS

- Three Creeks has been loaned a hand-made quilt from Clare Young. Clare's maternal great grandmother made the quilt in the 1860's.

- Christmas always brings cards and treats from Cascade Park patrons. This year seemed to be a new “high” (sugar high that is) for them. One day even yielded five boxes of chocolates from patrons! Needless to say, Cascade Park staff enjoyed all the treats.
- The North Bonneville branch continues to enjoy a steady stream of patrons. Many children have discovered the Brainstation and are often waiting at the door, especially on days the school releases students early.
- On a recent snowy morning, Chris Hughey (Stevenson) was out shoveling the walkway, when two charming young men, enjoying a “snow day” from the local elementary school, came by and volunteered to take over the job. Chris found another shovel and they cleared the walks with great enthusiasm. The staff treated them to hot cocoa and cookies afterward. When they came to the basement door with their cups they spied the bookmobile – “Oh, wow!” was the comment. The “town” children don’t have an opportunity to use the bookmobile, so Marie gave them a tour. They are now regular library users and particularly enjoy the Brainstation.
- A young mother who attends the Swaddler storytime at Vancouver Mall (led by Michele Taylor), told Michele that her child was singing, “put your toys in the box in the box” as she was picking up her toys at home. This is the song Michele sings with the children when it is time to clean up during storytime.
- Snow and ice didn’t deter 26 friends, neighbors and co-workers from attending a retirement reception for Library Board member Marilyn Butler on Dec. 20 in the Stevenson Library gallery. Marilyn received many gifts and accolades.
- The following email was received through FVRL’s website:
 

During the month of November my wife and I were in Battle Ground visiting with our daughter because we were displaced from Florida due to Hurricane Wilma. While in Battle Ground we had an occasion to use the computer and the Internet. The library personnel were so courteous and helpful we felt compelled to write a note of thanks and praise for your library system. Everyone was so great. I'm afraid we, from Florida, are not used to such polite service. Thanks again. --  
Maureen & Ray Lopez.

# **Foundation Director's Report**

## **Prepared by Rick Smithrud**

January 9, 2006

### **Benjamin Franklin's Birthday Bash**

The Friends of Battle Ground Community Library are only 2 weeks away from their fundraising dinner on Saturday, January 21, 2006. The dinner will be held at The Cedars on Salmon Creek (formerly The Cedars Golf Course). Tickets are \$50 each or a table of 10 for \$500. The Friends of Battle Ground Community Library are still looking for additional sponsors, silent auction donations, or helpful donors who will help establish a matching fund for the cash appeal that will be made at the dinner. Arrangements for purchasing tickets can be made by calling (360) 666-1480.

### **Wilda H. Fries Bequest**

The executor for the estate of Wilda H. Fries has notified the Foundation that it is listed as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy that was held by Mrs. Fries. Mrs. Fries was a long-time Vancouver resident that most recently lived at The Waterford in East Vancouver. Wilda passed away November 10th at age 94. She was a retired public school teacher. Her husband Emil passed away in 1997. According to her niece, Wilda enjoyed using FVRL's services for most of her life. The insurance policy's cash value is approximately \$16,000. The appropriate paperwork has been filed with the insurance company to have the policy cashed out and the proceeds forwarded to the Foundation. Funds received from this bequest are unrestricted.

### **2005 Fabulous Furniture Raffle**

The drawing for the 2005 Fabulous Furniture Raffle was held on Saturday, December 17 at the Three Creeks Community Library during the Friends of Three Creeks book sale. The lucky winner of a \$1,000 gift certificate to Koplan's Home Furnishings is Marion Rogers. Marion is a Vancouver resident, a library supporter and a former employee of the Vancouver B.C. public library. She purchased her tickets in September while attending the 2005 Authors & Illustrators Dinner. She is very excited about winning because this is the first thing she has ever won. The Fabulous Furniture generated approximately \$1,700 for FVRL Summer Reading programs.

### **2006 Authors & Illustrators Dinner**

The date and location of the 2006 Authors & Illustrators Dinner have been confirmed. The dinner will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. As planning begins for another spectacular event, two important events have already taken place. First, Wendy Wright, Foundation board member and long-time dinner committee member has moved into her role as the new A & I Dinner Committee Chair. Second, the Hilton Vancouver Washington has confirmed that it will partner with the Foundation and provide services related to the dinner at cost. This gift-in-kind saves the Foundation a minimum of \$10,000 in catering costs.