

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

March 13, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. at Woodland Grange. He moved the meeting immediately into executive session to discuss legal issues. Executive session ended at 5:12 p.m. with no action taken. King reconvened the regular meeting at 6:02 p.m.

2. PRESENT

Chair Jerry King presiding. Board members: Bill Yee, Jack Burkman, Jerry King and Rose Smith. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Doreen Turpen, Access & Programs Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director; Mary Devlin, Community Libraries Director; Melinda Chesbro, Content Management Director; Karin Ford, Vancouver Community Librarian and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Rick Smithrud, Bridget Cain-Bushman, Rian Girard, Lance Smith, Alex Fox, Cynthia Volk, Jewell Foederer, Barb Karnis, Margaret Ellis, Tami Miller, Heather Miller, Roman Miller and Danny Tipton.

3. BOARD WORKSHOP: LIBRARY FUNDING OPTIONS

King explained that the board would be receiving ideas tonight and would not be taking action at this time. They will make a decision at their retreat in April, after they have had more time to consider the options and for staff to gather more information.

Ziegman explained some background. Two recent bond measures have fallen short of receiving the 60% yes vote needed to pass. The district continues to deal with facilities that are constricted and difficult to maintain. Ziegman said that it is clear to him that it is not a viable option to “do nothing.”

Partnership opportunities are being explored. Ziegman said the City of Vancouver has been facilitating discussions with the National Development Council, a non-profit that could act as a financier and landlord for the facilities projects and that could bring some savings to the projects. Another opportunity that has come forward is a potential partnership with Killian Pacific, a private developer that intends to redevelop a site at the SE corner of Evergreen and C Street in downtown Vancouver. The City of Vancouver continues to offer the library district free land at the Firstenburg Community Center site in Cascade Park and at the current main library site. Ziegman noted that it would be helpful for the district to reach out to the community for philanthropy to further reduce costs to taxpayers.

Ziegman explained some pros and cons of running another bond measure using the existing VLCFA. We have one more opportunity to successfully run a bond measure with this established boundary or it expires. It would require a single vote if we used these boundaries. However, it would still require 60% approval, which is very difficult to attain. The cost to the individual taxpayer should a bond measure be successful would be approximately 20¢/\$1,000 of assessed valuation.

A levy lid lift would allow the library district to increase the maintenance and operation levy from the current 42¢ to the allowed maximum of 50¢ per thousand of assessed valuation and establish a new funding base. It requires a 50% yes vote district-wide. Ziegman explained that this additional funding would allow the library district to borrow money for building projects and pay loans back over time using the new revenue stream. Funds can be used for operational as well as capital purchases. The entire district would help fund district-wide services, such as the main library and administrative center. All communities would benefit directly from additional revenue through more library materials, expanded open hours and/or a contribution to a library building project.

Ziegman said election timing also must be considered. The earliest reasonable option would be the September primary. The board will need to discuss these issues at their April retreat. Ziegman asked for direction in the next steps that would help prepare for the April discussion. He suggested that community meetings be held before the retreat, to include citizens that have helped in library planning efforts such as with the Strategic Plan. These citizens could share their thoughts on what they think would be the best choices that would receive the most support in the community. He said staff would also continue to document options for presenting at the retreat.

Lee asked if the lid lift would have to pass in every county? Ziegman said no, that the combined votes must be over 50% for passage. Barb Karnis asked if cities that have annexed or that contract with the district would also vote in a lid lift election? Ziegman said the City of Woodland is annexed to the district and is as much a part as the rest. The Yale Precinct, however, would not vote because their services are provided through a contract. Duitman added that when cities annex to the district, the property taxes are no longer collected through their city but are paid directly like everyone else. Due to the 1% cap on revenue, Duitman said that the library's levy has gone down to 42¢ per thousand. Karnis said she thought citizens in Woodland could manage the 8¢ increase.

King said he sent a letter to all the Vancouver campaign workers saying he wanted to get together with them to hear their ideas. He said the community meetings would be a great way to do that.

Karnis suggested that the library approach Woodland City Council as well, because they take money out of Park funds to maintain the Woodland library building. She emphasized the importance of getting support from city officials,

since they can communicate their support to citizens. Burkman agreed that it is very important for all the councils in the entire district to be informed. Karnis also suggested involvement from the Friends of the Library groups. Ziegman agreed that there are many parts of the community that need to be included. King noted that the district serves a diverse region with rural, urban and suburban areas, which means we need to communicate this well during the campaign.

E. Smith asked about past support for this kind of election. Ziegman said that previous lid lifts have passed, including one that was done in 1993.

R. Smith said she thought the information was presented very well and appreciated the details about next steps.

King said another option that might be worth considering would be to run an LCFA bond measure in Cascade Park simultaneous with a district wide lid lift. He said the last bond measure did very well in some parts and not too well in others. He also wondered if more communication with voters in areas that received less support might help in another bond campaign.

Burkman said philanthropy is another important aspect. Naming rights (not dedications) is something that might result in some major contributions. He said this is something the board needs to talk about. Ziegman agreed that there are some major donors out there that might not have considered the library before.

King asked if the cost to the taxpayer is greater with a bond or a lid lift? Ziegman said the bond measure costs individual taxpayers more. He said that a lid lift has a much lower cost to individual taxpayers but would achieve far more because of the number of voters.

Burkman asked if staff would be making recommendations at the retreat on how to use potential lid lift funding in each community? Ziegman said he has polled the branch librarians to make recommendations. They've been asking around and listening to what their constituents want. He said that many want extra hours and additional material formats. Ziegman said the staff would present as much detail as possible at the retreat.

King said that while some cities have very adequate library facilities, some are far from it. R. Smith said the lid lift sounds appealing because everyone bears the same burden. She said she had heard some complaints about this during the bond measure, since it was just inside the City of Vancouver.

Rian Girard said he hadn't thought about the lid lift, but knows some don't like the redistricting aspect of the LCFA. He said this aspect makes the lid lift attractive. Ziegman said the library tried twice in the mid-1990s to run a district-wide bond measure, but it was really difficult to get 60% approval in such a large geographic region and both efforts failed.

King recessed the meeting from 6:35-6:47 p.m.

4. **AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. Expenditure Approval

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

6. **MINUTES**

E. Smith suggested two amendments to the minutes. The board discussed the following amendments and agreed they should be made:

- Following the motion on page 10, add: “E. Smith said she did not want a motion at this time and asked King if this was legal. King said it was in order but we should be sure to have plenty of discussion. Burkman agreed.”
- On page 16 in the 4th paragraph, add: “Rose Smith said she thinks we all know her opinion and that she believes she was appointed by the commissioners because of it.”

MOTION: Bill Yee moved and Jack Burkman seconded approval of the February 13, 2006 meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of the Board, King thanked Friends of Woodland Community Library for the wonderful meal they provided prior to the meeting. He said he was glad that so many citizens attended the meeting and thanked the volunteers that helped with the dinner.

8. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

9. REPORTS

A. Special Report from Woodland Community Library's Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB)

Woodland and La Center Community Librarian Bridget Cain-Bushman introduced Alex Fox, who is a member of the Woodland YAAB group. She noted that Alex started volunteering at the Woodland library after a staff member visited his school to talk about the bookmark contest.

Alex shared some of his experiences with the Woodland YAAB. He said he attended a game night program, which included a variety of fun games and pizza was served. He enjoyed playing scrabble. Their team name was the "Cool Librarian People." About 15 people participated and there were 4 pizzas, which were gone fast. Cain-Bushman asked Alex to share how he spent his Christmas money. Alex said he got \$100 for clothes, but used some of the leftover to buy a library card because he'd wanted one for a long time. He was able to buy a 3-month card. Alex said he lives outside the City of Woodland and so his family doesn't pay library taxes, which is why he must buy a card. R. Smith asked about the costs for the cards; they cost \$22.50 for 3 months and an annual card is \$90.

B. Branch News

Mary Devlin's written report is attached. Cain-Bushman introduced Woodland staff and Friends who were present. She said her staff has been doing a lot of outreach this past year. They spoke to 7th and 8th grade students at an assembly and as a result have gotten many more young people involved in the library. The Woodland and La Center staff competed to get the most summer reading signups and it was a dead tie. However, she said that Woodland technically won because more people completed the program. The Woodland library also provides story times and book checkout times for Headstart once a month.

Cain-Bushman said she is an active member in the Woodland Chamber and was a member of Woodland Centennial Committee, which helped plan the town's 100-year celebration. Friends of Library members were very involved in the planning, which included a plated dinner they organized attended by 420. Cain-Bushman recognized the efforts of the Thoeny family, Barb Karnis, Tami Miller, Danny Tipton and others that helped with the event. She said it was one of the biggest events to happen in Woodland in the last 100 years.

Karnis shared details about the Woodland Friends' planning efforts in the dinner event. She said it started out as a relatively small event but quickly escalated into a sit-down dinner for over 400 people. Catering was provided by a chef at the Lewis River golf course and included prime rib and salmon. It was a semi-formal event. She mentioned Margaret Colf

Hepola, who was the chair of the historical committee. Tami Miller and others helped to make large historical displays. Following the dinner, there was an open house featuring the historical displays, which was also very well attended. This exhibit will be on display at upcoming events in Woodland as the year progresses.

King said thanked Cain-Bushman and Karnis for a wonderful report.

C. FVRL Foundation Update

Smithrud’s written report is attached. He noted that they are working on two grant proposals for a new Battle Ground library.

Smithrud shared that former FVRL trustee and long-time Battle Ground library supporter Florence Robison has passed away. Her children have asked that memorial gifts be made to the Battle Ground library project.

Friends and trustees were invited to attend the Friends Fair event on April 29.

Smithrud and Cain-Bushman explained that a Woodland realtor named Marisa Watson notified them that every time she closes a house, she would send a \$300 check to Woodland Friends. The first check has been received and put into the Friends’ bank account. Bridget said Ms. Watson had previously shared her enthusiasm for the library district’s bookmark contest, which her child had participated in.

10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ziegman’s written report is attached. He also noted that much of his time this past month has been spent planning and working on potential partnerships and other work related to funding options.

Duitman invited board members to the annual Staff Development Conference on March 30 at Clark College. This is the first one to be held after a 3-year hiatus. Featured speaker, Joe Piscatella, will give a keynote and several breakout sessions on various health topics. There will also be a Benefits Fair. E. Smith said she has attended several past conferences and they are worthwhile. King noted that he has also appreciated attending in the past.

11. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

12. BOARD COMMENTS

Yee said he received a phone call from Rian Girard about a comment Yee had made during the Internet discussion at the February 13 board meeting. Girard took exception to a comment that made him uneasy. Yee said he didn’t mean to do that and wanted to publicly extend his apologies to Girard and anyone else

who might have felt that way. Yee said he'd try to be more careful about what he says in the future. It was noted that Girard had already left tonight's meeting.

King said he has had several phone calls and emails on the Internet subject and feels this is part of the public process. Yee said we should be capable of a civil and genteel discourse. King said he thought the board did this; that members were not afraid to disagree but presented themselves well. Ziegman said he would pass Yee's comments on to Girard.

Ziegman said R. Smith asked that we take up a collection to help buy more months for Alex Fox's library card, which was done after the meeting ended.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the library board retreat, held April 10-11, 2006 at the White Salmon Valley Community Library.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*These minutes were approved at the
April 10, 2006 Board meeting.*

Community Libraries Report For February 2006

PROGRAMS

- On the last Saturday of February, “The Jitterbugs,” a local White Salmon family along with their invisible band of bugs (akin to the proverbial flea circus), gave a fun musical comedy performance. The music was wonderful and seventy kids and parents enjoyed the program. The Jitterbugs performed gratis and the Friends of the Library provided refreshments
- Three Creeks had a special Star Wars program for school-age children on February 18. The program was complete with costumed Jedi, Darth Vader and others who assisted with “crowd control.” Staff counted just over 300 children and parents at the event.
- Open-Microphone Poetry Night, planned by Julianne Hudson (Battle Ground) and cosponsored with the Battle Ground Friends, was a big success. Community members from age 8 to 80 shared their original poetry and read old favorites. One reader, Norman Lester, provided the library with two CD’s of himself reading the poetry of Edgar Guest. The Friends are printing a booklet with the original poetry that was read that evening.
- Ridgefield’s “Dolly Dessert” drew seventy-six attendees. The group enjoyed a story read by Circulation Supervisor Jenine WhiteCastle. Jenine shared a sampling of her doll collection and participants introduced their doll, action figure, or stuffed animal. Ridgefield’s Friends provided and served refreshments and provided books for door prizes from local online bookseller, Sydney Reisbick (Book N Web).
- Ruth Shafer’s (Vancouver) “Read and Play” at Fruit Valley Community Learning Center is increasingly popular. On February 24, 62 children and adults attended, including six sets of twins! (A mother of twins encouraged other mothers in her support group to attend.)
- Twenty-four people attended Dr. Alicia Giminez “Heart Health” discussion about women’s health issues at Stevenson Library. Stevenson Friends provided healthy snacks.
- Make Something Ugly for a Change: Heidi Henning was led the new incarnation of White Salmon’s traditional “February Frolics”. The program involved the creation of wild and ugly sculptures constructed of paper mache and wire. The sculptures are currently on display at the library.
- Students from the Stevenson Elementary School BRIDGES program attended three library tours. They enjoyed a reading of “The Librarian of Basra” by Jeanette Winter, which is about the rescue of books from Iraq’s libraries. They also worked on poetry with readings from “Lunch Money” by Carol Shields, and then worked on multiplication puzzles.
- Vancouver’s Forum at the Library featured a presentation on “Medicaid and Long Term Care” by two specialists from the Washington Department of Social and Health Services.

- The La Center library held a Knitting 101 class on Thursdays in February. Volunteer Jean Tompkins did a wonderful job of teaching the class and has offered to continue to teach at La Center and Woodland.

YOUNG ADULTS

- Susan Kerwin (Goldendale) hosted a Teen Game Night requested by YAAB members. The games, particularly “Lingo” (a spin-off on Bingo), were a success, and participants received door prizes and game competition prizes. The event ended with a chorus of “when are you going to do this again?”
- Trish Segal, District YA Coordinator, visited Woodland on February 22nd. She came at 3:00 so she could see how many teens the branch serves (the branch is popular with teens after school). Trish went over some ideas for promoting YAAB and looked at the collection. She also did an informal book talk for some teens!
- La Center had 23 teens attend their Valentine card workshop. The teens enjoyed snacks and made some great valentines. They even made a valentine for the library staff!
- *Columbian* reporter Margaret Ellis and a photographer attended the Battle Ground YAAB meeting on February 21st. The meeting space was so full with the 10 teens attending that the staff members leading the meeting and the *Columbian* staff couldn’t sit down.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- A Latino Health Fair, organized by the Latino Community Resource Group (FVRL is a member), was held at St. John’s Catholic Church. Cristi Jenkins (District staff), Sheri Feinstein (Vancouver), and Jackie Little (Vancouver) talked to about 100 people at an exhibit table and in the bookmobile. Thirteen new library cards were issued and many books were checked out. Cristi noted that she had talked to more people at this event than at all of the former Latino fairs combined. FVRL also supported the event by designing the flyers and posters.
- Barbra Meisenheimer (Vancouver Mall) did a READ program at Orchards Elementary School. The program was well attended, everyone had a terrific time, and the children really enjoyed getting to pick out a book.
- Jackie Spurlock (Battle Ground) attended Battle Ground Mayor John Idsinga’s State of the City Address on February 8. Mayor Idsinga stressed the vast improvements in the city over the last decade. He also honored City Councilman Bill Ganley as Battle Ground’s Citizen of the Decade. The city is purchasing a \$1000 Cornerstone in the New Library Project in Bill Ganley’s honor.
- Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) attended a local community activities meeting hosted by the City of Goldendale’s events & publicity coordinator. Many local organizations talked about events they have planned, both to avoid conflicts and to recruit support organizations and volunteers. Goldendale Library events will be included on city website and calendars.

- Karin Ford (Vancouver) attended the annual meeting of the Vancouver Downtown Association.
- On February 8, Jackie Spurlock (Battle Ground) spoke to the Battle Ground Women's Study Club, highlighting new fiction and biography titles in the Community Library collection, and updating the group on the new library plans. The membership voted to contribute \$50 to the building campaign, and one member made a personal donation of \$25. This is a group that does not have much money, so their generosity is appreciated.
- Sean McGill (Washougal) presented a session on story time to an East County Providers group.
- Ryan Ellis (Cascade Park) went to Ellsworth Elementary Pride Night. The school requests his presence every year to give out library cards and promote the library.
- Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) attended the Firstenberg Community Center's grand opening. She listened to the speeches and was happy to hear Mayor Pollard refer to the current inadequacy of the Cascade Park Library and the vision of a new library built on the Firstenberg site.
- On February 8th, Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) was on a Klickitat AM Radio show with Bruce and Julian Notestein regarding the (then) upcoming FVRL Board discussion on Internet Access. The show received two calls, and Naomi received about six comments the week following the show regarding the issue and subsequent change in policy.
- Sean McGill (Washougal) presented story time and promoted library services at a Family Library Night at Cape-Horn Skye, and presented a story time at Grace Lutheran Church.
- Bridget Cain-Bushman (La Center / Woodland) attended a Lewis and Clark steering committee meeting on Feb 9th. Clark County and Vancouver are winding down their Lewis and Clark commemorations, but Stevenson will continue to commemorate through the end of April, as that is when the Corps of Discovery passed through that area 200 years ago. Bridget also met with the Woodland Centennial Committee.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

- The North Bonneville library is featuring a gardening display this month. New books have been rotated in from Stevenson to bolster the display.

STAFF

- Jane Miller, an Information Services Librarian, passed away unexpectedly during February. Jane was a wonderful person and librarian and was especially appreciated by staff and patrons for her genealogy expertise.
- Three Creeks' new Community Librarian, Gwen Scott-Miller, began work on February 13.

- Jewell Foederer began her new job as the Woodland Circulation Supervisor. Jewell was most recently at the Battle Ground library.
- Chris Hughey (Stevenson/North Bonneville) attended the Children’s Literature workshop in Portland and came back with a wealth of ideas and great titles. She used some of the BRIDGES funds to purchase poetry books and math puzzles and games.
- Several Battle Ground staff members have been attending lapsit and Book Babies programs around the library district. Staff attended one or two programs and observed many talented FVRL staff working with babies and toddlers, including Michelle Taylor at Vancouver Mall, Judy Larson at Stevenson, Ruth Shafer at Vancouver, and Holly Cote at Three Creeks. Battle Ground staff appreciated being able to observe at the other libraries.
- Jeff Troupe, a Three Creeks Library Assistant, received the February “Above and Beyond” Award for his work with the public and his gracious support of his co-workers during the migration to SIRSI.

BOOKMOBILES

- The Klickitat bookmobile had a software upgrade and their defective satellite controller replaced. The bookmobile drivers are delighted to have the satellite and wireless functions working much better now.

FACILITIES

- The ongoing problem with the Vancouver Mall public restrooms is due to a design flaw in the waste line, and Facilities staff is working with the Mall to see how it can be corrected. As an interim measure, locks have been installed on the restrooms in an (hopeful) effort to cut back on their use.
- The Ridgefield Library and Community Center have new siding thanks to a generous donation by Ridgefield Councilman Scott Hanson, of Lockett Construction. Scott, who was involved in the construction of the Community Center, offered the siding as well as installation by his employees. The Lions Club donated their labor in removing the old vinyl siding.
- With the recent heavy rains, Vancouver Mall had two leaks in the ceiling. They informed the Mall and the roof was patched.
- Dennis Sword and Facilities staff found the cause of the Goldendale basement leak. An underground pipe was unconnected and that meant that roof gutter water as well as ground water was draining into the problem area. With this fix everyone hopes the problem is solved, and are waiting for a good rain to test it out.

FRIENDS

- Cascade Park Friends group were pleased to have Bruce Ziegman attend their February meeting; they had concerns about the Internet policy changes and about future library political measures. Since then, Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) has had a number of Friends tell her how much they appreciated his coming to the meeting. They also felt encouraged by his enthusiasm and his belief that there will eventually be a new building for the Cascade Park Library.
- The Battle Ground Friends held a small used book sale at the Art Alliance's Not Quite Spring Bazaar on Saturday February 11. While the many local artists who purchased booth space there were disappointed with the light turnout, the Friends enjoyed a brisk business all day and ended up raising over \$600.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- White Salmon Friends of the Library recently established "The Keith McCoy Northwest History Collection" fund with the FVRL Foundation. The community was invited to contribute to the fund, and in response, Hugh Whitson contributed \$250 from McCoy-Holliston Insurance, the company that was established by Keith as a young man.

TIDBITS

- A patron took the time to make the following comment about Melanie McCree, Library Assistant at Three Creeks:

Melanie helped me at the resource computer. I didn't know what I was doing and I was having anxiety attacks and (was) overwhelmed. She showed me how, then made me do it and I did! I now feel I could come in and do it on my own and I really appreciated all of her effort. She had a lot of patience. Everyone is very friendly at Three Creeks.

Date: March 13, 2006
To: FVRL Board of Trustees
From: Patty Duitman
Subject: Operations Report

FACILITIES

- The Vancouver building had a current eddy test performed on the chiller. Results show the condition of the copper tubes to be good at this time.
- In Ridgefield, the building exterior vinyl siding was replaced with Hardi-Plank siding. A local contractor, Lockett Construction, did the volunteer work with help from the Lion's Club. The building will be repainted when weather permits. The Library will need to replace or refurbish its exterior sign.
- At the Annex, the first phase of staff moves were completed, improving the workspace for two staff members.

COMPUTER SERVICES

- The big project in February was replacing the staff computers at the Annex. It went very smoothly with just a few glitches – nothing major. Kudos to all!
- Work has continued on streamlining the backups that run nightly on the servers.
- Installing various wiki & blog software on the staff server, to be evaluated by the Intranet Committee.
- Upgrading the server hardware for servers for Rooms, Director Station, and Singlesearch.
- Replacing printers that are up for surplus and getting the new label printers up and running for the branches.
- Working on getting a VPN setup between North Bonneville and Vancouver, which will make the North Bonneville computers more secure and easier to access from Computer Services. This should go into testing in March.

In March, we expect to do more general maintenance of the existing computers and printers. Also in March, we have the SAM client upgrade, which will take a large chunk of time.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Conducted the first group New Hire Orientation on February 24. We will be making a few minor adjustments, but the evaluations from the attendees were very positive. Our next one is scheduled for April 14.

TRAINING SERVICES

Conference/Workshop Registrations

- WLA Conference – 15 attending
- OLA Conference – 1 attending pre-conference
- PLA Conference – 1 last-minute registration for board member
- Spanish Language Outreach training – 4 attending
- Multicultural Children's Literature workshop – 2 attending from upriver branches
- Using Cascading Style Sheets to Design Your Library's Website – 1 attending
- SirsiDynix Web Conference – 5 people scheduled for March 8 conference on Data analysis for Libraries

- Library Management Hot Topics Web Conference (March 10) – 10 people scheduled to view this one either in the lab or at their location
- Holly has viewed 2 SirsiDynix Web Conferences on Blogs/Library 2.0 topics. Both are available to view online any time; would encourage anyone interested to view them (can schedule Training Lab for groups also)

Mandatory and/or Training Plan Training

- Scheduled CPR/First Aid classes for March-April; 4 sessions scheduled
- Scheduled sub Security Guard for additional First Aid class; all guards will have had extra training in this area
- Continued rotation of Blood borne Pathogens video

Staff Library

- Weeded periodicals
- Completed weeding of the majority of the book collection; only a few stragglers left to review
- Prepared new order in anticipation of 2006 order cycle beginning (hopefully) soon

Substitute Training

- Scheduled 8 branch orientations for Asst I subs
- Scheduled new Asst I sub for initial 25 hours of training

Staff Development Conference

- Continued to finalize schedule with speakers; just 1 or 2 left to get program descriptions
- Brief agenda posted for staff

PURCHASING

- **New format for overdue mailers**

The new format for our overdue mailers is an 8.5 x 11 pre-printed vendor form, which is internally printed with our patron information. The form is then sealed in a seal machine and the postage is added.

This form takes the place of our old crash mailer, which is difficult to format through our new Sirsi system.

- **May Surplus Sale**

The May sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6. Hours are 9am - 3pm in Library Hall. Miscellaneous library and computer equipment will be available for sale.

ADMINISTRATION

- Completed year-end closing
- Continue to work on future 2006 budget amendment
- Gathered information for March election workshop

Board Report

Access and Programs

Doreen Turpen
March 13, 2006

Early Learning:

Volunteers prepared another set of Hello, Baby! bags for distribution. This set was purchased with funds from a grant from Vancouver Rotary. As of the end of February, 335 coupons have been returned. This means about 15% of the families receiving bags have specifically visited the library to receive another free book.

I represented the library when a group from SELF met with Jim Jacks of the Governor's Office. He wanted to learn more about local efforts to support young children and to hear our ideas for the new Early Learning office. I attended a meeting in Lacey of the Early Learning committee. This is one of the committees of Washington Learns, the Governor's initiative to examine the state's education system.

Jacquelyn has been attending meetings of the Skamania-Klickitat Community Network. This group has expressed interest in coordinating services to young children.

Community Contacts:

Jacquelyn is working with a group to plan a Provider Appreciation Day for childcare workers. The event is scheduled for May. Other participating organizations include ESD 112, WSU Vancouver, Clark College, Head Start, and SWAEYC.

I am chairing a group charged with developing an Early Learning Clearinghouse for Clark County. The committee is made up of representatives from several organizations and agencies. The group is adding information to the SELF website and it has developed criteria for physical sites to meet in order to be clearinghouse sites. I am using my work with this group to identify topics and search terms for the FVRL Web site to make it more useful.

The Clark County Lewis and Clark committee held its final meeting, which signals the wrap up of coordinated Lewis and Clark events in Clark County. Bridget Cain-Bushman and I served on this committee for about three years. Our contacts led to several joint programs and cross-promotion of events.

Trish is working with teachers from JDC (Juvenile Detention Center) to prepare for a presentation they are doing at the 2006 Collaboration Conference put on by OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction). They will present on the book discussion and deposit collection partnership between the library and JDC.

Trish has created new partnerships for support of Battle of the Bands and for the Backlight Film Festival. This year's Battle of the Bands will take place at the Noisebox (LaCamas Conference Center) in Camas. Camas Public Library is co-sponsoring the

event and their Friends group is paying for part of the prizes. The Noisebox is providing sound, lights, staff and a concession stand. They are promoting the event on their myspace.com site. Battle Ground Cinemas will host the film program this year. Trish is working out details, but it appears that the cinema will provide advertising for the event as well as space.

Amy was on the organizing committee for the Latino Health Fair held at St. John Catholic Church on February 26. Over 20 vendors participated. Most of them represent social service agencies. Cristi Jenkins, Sheri Feinstein and bookmobile staff represented the library. They estimated that they reached about 100 people through the event. They issued 13 new library cards. FVRL's contribution to the event included graphics support for flyers and posters. This event was the most successful yet in reaching the Latino population. The event was scheduled at the church just following the Spanish mass.

Amy continues to coordinate the Vancouver area Conversation Circles. In February she provided orientation for a new volunteer for the circles at Harmony Elementary School. She is working with Clark College to set up tutor training in April. District-wide there were 22 conversation circles in February, with 214 adult participants and 86 children.

SIRSI:

Brenda's time continues to revolve around the migration. She has started the second round of training on circulation functions. Brenda is one of three people who attended more extensive training on managing the system.

As part of the reorganization, Amy is taking over Tom's tasks relating to patron issues with the new catalog. She deals with issues relating to the functions of the catalog and remote access to our databases. She is also learning about the filter, the interface between Sirsi and the Internet management software, and print management.

Staffing:

Mike Githens, my administrative assistant, will be moving to Fiscal to take on payroll for the District, so I will soon be undertaking a search for a new assistant. Mike has been a great assistant and I will miss his friendly and cheerful support. The upside is that I know our payroll will be in very good hands.

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

March 13, 2006

Breakfast at Mallard Landing

Mallard Landing, an assisted living facility in Battle Ground, will be hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Friends of Battle Ground Community Library. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to make a donation of \$3 or more to help build the new Battle Ground Library. Mallard Landing is a Cornerstone Society donor (\$1,000 or more) to the Battle Ground Library Campaign and will continue to host fundraising events throughout the campaign.

Clark County Early Learning Fund (CCELFF)

The Foundation will be submitting a grant proposal to the Foundation for Early Learning on behalf of FVRL's proposed 24/7 Project. The 24/7 Project would provide information and resources related to pre-readers and early learning through an FVRL webpage. FVRL Foundation's initial application outlined a request for \$25,890.00 to cover the cost of developing the materials and creating a special web "room." The application was approved for the Foundation to submit a full proposal on March 20, 2006.

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

The Foundation will be submitting a full proposal to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for the next grant cycle. The proposal requests a \$100,000 challenge grant award in support of the Battle Ground Library Building Project. The proposal will be submitted before March 15, 2006 and a decision will be made before August 31, 2006. The Paul G. Allen Foundation previously approved FVRL Foundation's letter of interest for this proposal.

Florence Robison

Former FVRL Trustee Florence Robison passed away on March 2, 2006 in Vancouver. Her funeral was held on Saturday, March 11 in Battle Ground. Florence's children have asked that memorial gifts be made to the Battle Ground Library Building Project. Several gifts have already been received in recognition of Florence.

2006 Friends Fair

The annual Friends Fair will be held on Saturday, April 29 at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver. The Friends of Vancouver Community Library will be hosting this year's Friends Fair. Author Molly Gloss will be the featured lunchtime speaker. Molly Gloss, author of *The Jump-Off Creek*, *The Dazzle of the Day*, *Wild Life*, and *Outside The Gates* has received several awards and honors including: Oregon Book Award for Fiction, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and the PEN Center USA West Award for Fiction. The theme for this year's Friends Fair is increasing and improving membership. FVRL Trustees are invited and encouraged to attend the 2006 Friends Fair. Please RSVP to Casandra Franzen at 699-8846.