

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

*May 8, 2006*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jerry King called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at Fire Station #83 in Cascade Park. He moved the meeting immediately into executive session to discuss real estate and legal issues. Executive session ended at 5:45 p.m. with no action taken and King reconvened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**2. PRESENT**

Chair Jerry King presiding. Other board members attending: Bill Yee, Merle Koplan and Rose Smith. Absent: Jack Burkman, Karen Peterson and Elena Smith.

Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Doreen Turpen, Access & Programs Director; Melinda Chesbro, Content Management Director; Karin Ford, Vancouver Community Librarian; Teresa Torres, Cascade Park Community Librarian; and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Rick Smithrud, Lance Thompson, Bob & Helen Stewart, Ryan Ellis, Rae Clark, Don & Jane Higgins, Jannette Nance, Anna Cross and Margaret Ellis.

**3. AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 10-11, 2006 board retreat were approved as emailed.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

King said that a number of library trustees, staff and Friends members participated in a tour of the Firstenburg Community Center earlier that afternoon. He also acknowledged that several board members were absent tonight either due to illness or other obligations.

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Lance Thompson expressed how much his family appreciates being able to order books online and check the status of their library card records. He said he's never seen another library that offers such an extensive service. Thompson said the computer tells you how many copies of a title there are so you can see how long the wait is. He said it's a wonderful service. King thanked Thompson for his comments. Koplan said the new computer system will allow even more advances and that we have much to look forward to.

## 7. BUSINESS

### A. Expenditure Approval

**MOTION: Merle Koplán moved and Bill Yee 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: Merle Koplán moved and Bill Yee seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.**

### C. Resolution 2006-3: Budget Amendment #06-04

At last month's board meeting, Ziegman had deferred some staffing requests in order to further explore library needs. Ziegman said staff has looked into this further and determined that an additional position is needed this year at the White Salmon library.

Duitman said deferring this decision allowed time to obtain the final 2005 library statistics. These statistics show:

- Circulation (checkouts) per FTE at the White Salmon library was comparable to and in some cases exceeded many of our libraries in Clark County.
- Average visits per week per FTE were higher than other libraries except for Three Creeks and Vancouver Mall.

In consideration of the number of people going into the branch and the increased circulation, a new position is recommended for the White Salmon library. King said the board had also received a written report from Community Libraries Director Mary Devlin, who also recommends advertising the position as one where Spanish language skills are desirable.

**MOTION: Rose Smith moved and Merle Koplán seconded approval of Resolution 2006-3, Budget Amendment #06-04. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ziegman said that even though the library board doesn't vote by proxy, Elena Smith had called in earlier today to express her support for approving this staffing request.

### D. Bond Measure Update

A special library board meeting will be held at the Vancouver Community Library on May 23 at 6 p.m. to finalize a number of details related to the bond measure for Vancouver's libraries. Ziegman said he has been working on an agreement with Killian Pacific, the developers of the Riverwest property where a new main library is proposed, and hopes to have it ready for the May 23 meeting. Staff is still working on costing but plans to have a recommendation for the bond amount too.

Many citizens are making use of the new Firstenburg Community Center and Ziegman said it would be ideal if people could combine their trip with a visit to a new library there. He recommended that anyone who hasn't seen the new Community Center go and take a look as it's a terrific facility.

Ziegman also reported that the political campaign for the bond measure is gearing up.

E. Opt in to LIFT project

Ziegman explained the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) project. Legislation was passed in this last session allowing tax increment financing for the first time in Washington State. Three projects in three different cities (Bellingham, Spokane and Vancouver) were included in the LIFT bill. Vancouver's project is the Riverwest development, where a new Main library is proposed. The jurisdictions involved for Vancouver include the City of Vancouver, Clark County, the Port of Vancouver and the library district, and each of these jurisdictions have an opportunity to opt in to that measure or not. The City is preparing a resolution for all the jurisdictions to sign. Ziegman said the resolution is not yet ready and so this topic must be deferred to our May 23 meeting.

8. REPORTS

A. Branch News

Mary Devlin's written report is attached. Community Librarian Teresa Torres introduced Cascade Park Friends and staff members that were present. Torres explained that the Cascade Park library has a very small space with no room for meetings or events, and so they must use spaces around town. She said their motto has been, "The biggest little library in Vancouver." Several spaces they have used for library programming include:

- Fisher's Landing Assisted Living Community and Cascade Inn Retirement Center for adult book discussions
- Harmony Elementary School for English as a Second Language conversation groups and family storytimes
- Round Table Pizza for Young Adult Advisory Board meetings and teen book discussions

Torres said they are doing storytimes for a playgroup at Firstenburg Community Center in exchange for eventually using the space for book discussions.

December 2005 statistics for the Cascade Park library were also shared. A total of 19,174 items were checked out that month. When compared with their FTE of 7.75, each employee checked out an average of 2,474 items during the month. She compared this with checkouts at the Vancouver Mall library, which checked out 22,341 items or an average of 1801 per employee.

Torres said that many people use the Cascade Park library and that being located adjacent to the Firstenburg Community Center would help a great many more people discover and make use of the library. Population on the east side of the city continues to grow and Torres said a larger library is desperately needed.

King said the library board appreciates the Cascade Park staff's hard work and that an adequate facility for the east side is a major goal in the bond measure.

#### **B. FVRL Foundation Update**

Foundation Director Rick Smithrud's written report is attached. Smithrud also shared news about a raffle being conducted for the Woodland library. A local realtor is donating a playhouse for the drawing and the proceeds from the drawing would be used for the Woodland library building fund.

R. Smith asked if the Foundation had many items for its annual dinner auction? Smithrud said they are putting together packages and that you can contribute items for a package. Smithrud also noted that 35 tables for the dinner were already filled and said it's a good idea to reserve tables early, as the event has sold out for the past two years.

### **9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ziegman acknowledged several members of the Friends of Battle Ground Library that were present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He said he asked them earlier if they had a presentation and they had responded that they just came to support the efforts of the Cascade Park Friends. He said he knows how busy the Battle Ground Friends are and that he really thinks it's great that they came to show their support for another group.

Ziegman shared information about some of the activities he's been involved in during the past month. He said at least 60-70 people attended the recent Friends Fair, which is hosted by the FVRL Foundation. Ziegman enjoyed being able to meet Friends members and said he thought the program was terrific. He thanked the Foundation for continuing to offer it.

At the district's Volunteer Appreciation Reception, library volunteers from across the district were recognized for their efforts. Ziegman and several board members attended. Ziegman noted that at least half of the attendees were youth. He was impressed that so many young people gave their time to help the library and also came to the program.

King said he went to special reception honoring Jane Nowell, who was president of the Vancouver Friends and who is moving from the area.

**10. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Bob Stewart said that the municipal bond rate continues to rise, and wondered if the board or staff knew what the interest rate for the library bond would be this time compared with the previous bond measure that did not pass? King said the library has a good rating and is well accepted in the financing community, so we should get as good a rate as is available, but didn't think this information would be available until the time that the bonds are sold. Mr. Stewart asked if we've talked to anyone who markets bonds to see if they can anticipate what the rates might be? Duitman said staff could send it out for a quote, but we would not have any firm figures. Koplan remarked that steel prices and building costs continue to rise, and with each delay in passing a bond measure the costs go up. Ziegman agreed, noting that staff is using an annual inflationary rate of 8-10% when estimating construction costs.

**11. BOARD COMMENTS**

R. Smith said that she is unable to attend the June 12 board meeting, as she will be on vacation and out of town at that time.

**12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 12, 2006 at Goldendale Community Library.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

***These minutes were approved at the June 19, 2006 board meeting.***

## Community Libraries Report For April 2006

### PROGRAMS

- A Guitar is Born — Local Jazz guitarist, Charles Crosman, donated his time to perform a concert of ‘Tin Pan Alley’ era standards for the White Salmon library. His concert featured a custom-built guitar by White Salmon luthier, Craig Wilson. A discussion of the building of the guitar was incorporated into the evening performance. The flyer the Graphics Department created for this event was exceptional.
- Battle Ground’s Eco-Beading program on Earth Day was a huge success. Renee Tkach led the group in designing and creating beaded jewelry based on endangered species that live in the area Lewis & Clark traveled through. People enjoyed it so much that many were still making jewelry almost three hours after the program started.
- Cascade Park held its fourth Poetry Slam in April. A few of the participants were actually walk-ins (a first for the program). Three boys in the audience had seen the signs put up for the program and after watching for a while asked if they could participate. They composed two poems that one of them performed. Though they didn’t win, they did pretty well and are also planning to take part in the library’s Teen Idol contest.
- Stevenson’s Food for Thought book group enjoyed a discussion on the thought-provoking novel “Woman on the Edge of Time” by Marge Piercy. Several attendees had read the book when it first came out in the 1970s and were struck by how differently they view the themes now.
- Jenine WhiteCastle (Ridgefield) created an enchanting atmosphere for the library’s Faeries Program. Close to thirty children and adults enjoyed the displays and crafts and many expressed their appreciation for the program, including a family new to Ridgefield. After the program, faery-related books experienced a surge in circulation.
- Susan Kerwin (Goldendale) hosted an Earth Day craft table at the Fair. It featured recycled materials from which kids could make coin banks, shakers, pencil holders or whatever they thought up. About 200 children visited the table over the course of the day.
- Vancouver’s Earth Day-themed “Science Sleuths” program attracted 37 children and adults to the library on a Saturday. They enjoyed a variety of brain teasers and science experiments.
- Three Creeks’ Super Saturday program, American Girls, attracted 90 parents and children for the event on April 15.
- Stevenson continued to host visits from high school classes. The junior English class came for databases demonstrations; they are writing thesis statements in preparation for next year’s senior projects. The high school literature classes continue to join the library for preschool storytimes. They love the stories and crafts.

- AARP volunteers at Three Creeks filed 194 returns (155 Federal returns and 39 Oregon Non-resident returns). They assisted 216 taxpayers, some only with advice.
- Woodland's storytimes ended on April 25th. Their storytime attendance has really skyrocketed, with over 50 kids and parents attending. The library is planning to offer a toddler and preschool storytime in the fall, along with a lapsit program once a month.
- Vancouver Mall's Infant-Toddler Sign Language program had 60 responsive children and parents. The library plans to make Dawn Prochonvic's program a regular event. They've also had several requests for an adult beginning sign language program.
- White Salmon finished up their "American West" book discussion series on April 29. Diane Allen, former teacher of U.S. and American History at Columbia Gorge Community College and Mt. Hood Community College, lead the four-part series and provided background information along with stimulating questions to provoke very interesting discussions. The group appreciated Diane's time and expertise. Also, as part of this series, Diane contacted Portland author, Molly Gloss, and convinced her to join the series discussion in March.
- Since April is National Poetry Month, Washougal's Xtream Poets put together "Take-a-Poem-Leave-a-Poem" boxes and distributed them to middle and high schools in Washougal and Camas and to the Stevenson and Cascade Park libraries.
- Westfield Shopping Center had its second Red Hat Society Day this month. About two hundred members converged in the Mall for fashion shows, food and fun. Each member received a packet that included an entry blank for a book bag and T-shirt donated by the Vancouver Mall Friends and 29 people took the time to fill out the coupon and bring it into the Library.
- Woodland had 50 kids attend the an after school program where they learned how to make Origami. Two teen volunteers helped out with the program.
- Five public computer classes were taught at the Vancouver library. Tina Smith (Vancouver) also gave a well-received class on using the catalog in White Salmon.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Dennis Pavlina and Carmen Villarma and their Battle Ground Village project (where the new Battle Ground library will be located) were highlighted in an April 16 article in the Columbian. The article included an artist's rendering of the new library, and Carmen commented that people coming to the commercial complex will be making the library or a restaurant their destination.
- For the second year in a row, Wy'east Middle School asked Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) to be a judge for 8th grade exit projects. She was impressed with the choice of topics and the quality of the presentations this year.
- Goldendale's celebration of Week of the Young Child culminated at the library on Friday April 14th. About 175 youngsters and parents converged on the library at the end of their

parade route where they were met by Sophie the Library Otter. The children were thrilled by Sophie and enjoyed their big otter hugs.

- Two representatives from the Share Outreach (homeless services) met with Vancouver managers to provide information on their services. They have staff visit the library once or twice a week (as part of their rounds through downtown) to check on clients. They are also willing to be called to help resolve non-emergency problems with transient patrons. They said that day programs for the homeless are almost non-existent in Clark County, which is one reason why the library is a popular place to spend the day.
- Ruth Shafer (Vancouver) was busy with outside storytimes, including five storytimes for the Kids Care Childcare Center, the YWCA's Care Family Night, Headstart for homeless families, and Fruit Valley Elementary School "preschool night" for kids and parents.
- Cyndy Volk, Jewell Foederer, and Bridget Cain-Bushman attended the Woodland Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 18th for a candidates forum. Rep. Curtis had many positive things to say about the library and was very supportive of the Hello Baby Book Bags. He also used part of his forum time to talk about that program.
- Gwen Scott Miller (Three Creeks) organized a tour of the Annex for a group of homeschooled children. They enjoyed seeing where library materials are ordered, processed and mended.

## **EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS**

- Carol Vandergraff brought an ostrich she made using a glue gun and 276 hot glue sticks and asked if it might be displayed in the Washougal library. Sean McGill thought it was an amazing work of art and has asked her if she would talk about how she made it.

## **STAFF**

- Mario Milosevic (Stevenson) was a hit with the BRIDGES after-school students this month. Mario taught the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders to play chess. A teacher came by the library to say that the students wanted to know when he will be back. Additional chess activities, including a tournament, will be done for the group throughout May.
- The ten nominees for the 5th annual Library Service Award were announced by Altrusa of Clark County. This annual salute to outstanding library service is open to public-service employees of any type of library located in Clark County. This year's top-ten list includes five FVRL employees: Ryan Ellis (Cascade Park), Amy Lee (FVRL District), Jackie Little (Clark County Bookmobile / Vancouver), Jackie Spurlock (Battle Ground), and Teresa Torres (Cascade Park).
- Sam Wallin (Vancouver) was promoted to Librarian I in Information Services.
- Tina Smith (Vancouver) is a new board member for Altrusa International of Clark County.

## **FACILITIES**

- The building re-siding at Ridgefield is nearly complete, with minor caulk touch-ups, etc. continuing. The Community Center is having Nutter's Gutters prepare bigger downspouts and the Lions Club will paint the existing gutters soon.
- Facilities are about to replace Goldendale's exterior light poles with ones compliant with the shielded-lighting ordinance. Observatory staff are very pleased.
- New furniture for Battle Ground, bought with the SWIFT grant money, has been shipped and is expected in the library very soon.

## **BOOKMOBILES**

- A Klickitat bookmobile stop has been lined up for the Roosevelt area at the Pueblo del Rio. This will serve approximately 100 residents in a new housing development.

## **YAAB & TEEN PROGRAMS**

- Vancouver had a good turnout for the "Teen Idol" talent show. Vancouver Friends supported the event with food and prizes.
- The Goldendale YAAB group is growing under Susan Kerwin's care. More teens are joining the book group and are volunteering in the library. The group is enthused about making crafts to sell at the Friends booksale to make money for summer reading.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

- Vancouver has started using volunteers recruited by Sherry Braga to help with the public computer classes. They're giving one-on-one help to attendees.

## **FRIENDS**

- Thirteen preschoolers came to the Battle Ground library on April 11 to make a contribution to the new library. They presented a bucket of pennies totalling \$26.36 to Jane Higgins (Friends Vice-President) and Ken Topper (Treasurer), then listened to a story, saw a picture of the new library, and had snacks provided by the Friends. The Columbian ran a story and photo about this donation on April 26.
- The Three Creeks and Vancouver Friends booksales were big successes.
- Goldendale Friends have printed another 500 copies of *Bluelight to Pucker Huddle*. So far they've sold 1500 copies.

## DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- Anonymous donors have once again pledged \$1000 to support a summer concert series at the Goldendale library.
- A couple have donated \$250 to the Three Creeks library.
- A \$5,000 gift was sent to the Foundation for children't books for the Battle Ground library. The Friends hope to use it for the building instead.
- Linda Hickey gave \$2,500 to the Battle Ground Friends for library programs and operations. The Friends may use it for programs and then transfer the same amount from their regular funds into the building fund.

## TIDBITS

- A Battle Ground patron brought in a supply of “kisses and indulgences” (Hershey’s kisses) for the staff, because they “indulge” her numerous questions on the computer.
- Former FVRL Board member and Ridgefield resident Ellis Dunn is recovering well from surgery.
- Students from Headstart have come to the Washougal library several times on tours, and for every tour the library uses the song *We Are the Dinosaurs* by Laurie Berkner. Afterwards, two of the teachers came to the library to check out books and told staff that every morning the children march off the bus singing this song.

Board Report  
May 8, 2006  
Access & Programs Division  
Submitted by Doreen Turpen

## Staff recognition:

Amy Lee is one of the finalists for the Altrusa Librarian of the Year award.

I attended the Clark County Community Inspiration Award presentation when Trish received recognition of her service to youth. The award was presented at the April Youth Commission meeting.

## A few highlights for the month:

The annual Poetry Slam was held on April 20 at Wy'East Middle School in Vancouver. Seventy-eight people attended the event and 18 teens performed their original poetry. Contestants came from throughout the District and included teens from Ridgefield, Battle Ground, Vancouver, and White Salmon. Teresa Torres and Ryan Ellis from Cascade Park were especially helpful with the planning. Amy Wright and Sean McGill assisted by serving on the panel of judges

Brenda hired Joseph (Joey) North for the new Circulation Specialist position. Joey will begin the new position on June 1, 2006. He began working for FVRL in November of 2005 at VCL and brings additional experience from previous library work with the Spokane County Library District. His new position will make use of his past work as a lead worker and a person responsible for writing procedures.

## Community Connections:

Amy Lee – report on AG office contact

“Collaboration with the Attorney General” According to Internet security experts, one's computer is susceptible of being infected by spyware or worms etc. within the first hour of being online if it doesn't have any security software protection. Thus I saw a need to incorporate a section or at least a handout of "Internet Security" in our Internet II public class. I mentioned this to Sheri Feinstein, the librarian who created the class curriculum. She found a great newsletter article on the WA State Attorney General's website and wrote for permission for copying for our class. The AG's office suggested that they could reformat the article into a flyer for us. Through correspondence with their Graphic Designer via email and by giving them a couple suggestions, the AG office produced a wonderful flyer based on the online article just for our use. Not only can we use this in class, but we can also distribute the flyer with good "Safe Computing" tips to our patrons. In turn, we were asked to help the AG office to promote their "Cyber Safety Campaign" which includes a seminar to be held in coordination with AARP in Vancouver in June 2006!”

## Summer Reading – benefits:

Our summer reading program is one of the most time-consuming and costly programs we undertake each year. We invest the time and effort in this program because we have long known that children who read during the summer are better able to retain their reading

skills. Jacquelyn recently located information that reinforces the value of summer reading programs.

- Ron Fairchild at the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University noted that experts agree that children who read during the summer gain or maintain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward. A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately 2.6 months or roughly 28.9 percent of the school year. It is common for teachers to spend at least 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten.
- Jim Kim of Harvard's Center for Evaluation found that reading 4 or 5 books over the summer months had an impact on fall reading achievement comparable to attending summer school. Furthermore, there were no significant differences in achievement based on which type of books children read. Jacquelyn notes that this supports our program of letting children read any type of material to get credit for time spent reading.
- The use of rewards can actually motivate young readers. Current research (Linda Gambrell et al) has shown that extrinsic motivation can indeed be used to bring about motivation to read.

# **Foundation Director's Report**

**Prepared by Rick Smithrud**

May 8, 2006

## **La Center Casinos Charitable Fund**

The Foundation has been notified that two of its grant requests to the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund have been approved for full funding. One grant, for \$2,300, will cover the cost of providing "Hello Baby!" book bags to the parents of newborns living within the La Center Library service area. The other grant, for \$3,500, will be used to purchase an outdoor activity tent for library programs and activities sponsored by La Center Community Library. Because the La Center Library branch does not have a community meeting room, the new tent will provide weather protection for a variety of group gatherings and library events.

## **Battle Ground Library Memorial Donation**

The Foundation has received a \$5,000 memorial donation for the Battle Ground branch. The donation is restricted for the purchase of children's books and reference materials. The donor has stipulated that because the current Battle Ground branch has no room for more books, the Foundation can hold these funds until a new facility is available to accommodate the additional materials.

## **Woodland Library Memorial Donation**

The Foundation is currently working with a prospective donor who would like to establish an endowed account with the Foundation. The donor will establish this fund with a gift of \$50,000. The interest generated by this fund would be used to purchase additional children's books for the collection at the Woodland branch.

## **RiverWalk Fundraiser**

The Foundation is selling tickets to the 2006 RiverWalk on Saturday, June 24. The walk will start at 9 a.m. at Esther Short Park in Vancouver. You must have a ticket to participate in the walk. Tickets are \$10 each. You can purchase tickets from Casandra Franzen at 360-699-8846. If you cannot participate in the walk yourself, consider buying a ticket for a friend, relative, or one of the library's teen volunteers. Proceeds from RiverWalk ticket sales will help underwrite the cost of FVRL's Children's Summer Reading prizes.

## **2006 Authors & Illustrators Dinner**

FVRL Foundation will be hosting its annual Authors & Illustrators Dinner on Thursday, October 5, 2006. The dinner and silent auction will be held at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Our featured speaker this year will be children's illustrator and author Mark Ludy. The dinner committee is planning for a "sell out" crowd of 950 to 1,000 guests. The dinner committee has already started contacting Table Captains and has received commitments for 35 of the 100 tables at this year's event. Please call Casandra Franzen at 360-699-8846 and reserve tickets or a table as soon as possible.