

Friends of the Greene County Library, Inc.  
Minutes  
January 31, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM. Board members in attendance were Deborah Willenborg, Jackie Pamenter, and John Mitchell. Also in attendance were Greene Library Branch Manager Ginny Reese and guest Lisa Thomas.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that there was \$850.86 in the Friends' checking account. He noted that membership dues and contributions, which the Friends uses to support library programs, had slowed recently. The Board decided to highlight Friends membership in a forthcoming Greene County Record article.

John also reported on the final disposition of the building fund that resulted from the Capital Campaign jointly organized and conducted by the Greene Friends and the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) for the new library and senior center facility. Although the building was substantially completed and occupied in 2003, some tasks undertaken by the capital campaign were not completed until 2006. Upon the completion of all the tasks that the campaign had committed to do, a balance of \$80,545.41 remained in the building fund account. John attributed this to three principal factors: (1) the tremendous outpouring of support within the community for the new library and senior center; (2) donors' faithfulness in paying their pledges, which resulted in minimal pledge shrinkage; and (3) very low campaign expenses because virtually all of the campaign administration was done by volunteers.

As advised by legal counsel, the remaining funds were divided equally between JABA and the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, to be placed in restricted special accounts. Written agreements limit the use of these funds to future building-related needs of the senior center and the library, such as the acquisition of new capital equipment, or the repair or replacement of existing capital equipment. This will assure that the senior center and the library will have the furnishings and equipment needed to meet future demands, and can be kept in good repair. The funds cannot be used for day-to-day operating expenses or for routine maintenance, since the capital campaign did not solicit, and donors did not contribute, funds for these purposes.

Festival of the Book: Deborah noted that the Virginia Festival of the Book is fast coming upon us. The Greene Friends will host a Festival program on Thursday, March 22, at 7PM in the Library/Senior Center Public Meeting Room. The program will feature Charlottesville author Amy Lee-Tai, whose book "The Place Where Sunflowers Grow" is written from a child's perspective on the experiences within a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II. We anticipate that this program will generate much interest and be well attended. The Friends Board previously had agreed to pay the author an honorarium, and also invited her to be our guest at dinner at The Lafayette if her schedule permits. In order to finalize planning for the event, the Board se Wednesday, February 21, as its next meeting date.

Budget Discussions and Usage Survey: Deborah, who is Greene County's representative on the J-MRL's Board of Trustees, and J-MRL Director John Halliday recently met with County Administrator Barry Clark, the County's Finance Director Tracy Morris, and Board of Supervisors member Buggs Peyton, the liaison between the Supervisors and the Library, to initiate discussions on the next fiscal year's budget for library operations.

**WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

In preparation for the library system's budget presentation, Deborah is gathering factual information on the volume and patterns of usage of the library. As requested by Mr. Peyton, the Friends has undertaken a usage survey that focuses largely, although not exclusively, on the impact upon patrons of the library's being closed on Wednesdays. The survey consists of three questions:

1. Would you use our library on Wednesdays if it were open?
2. Would you use the library on Friday mornings if it were open before 1pm?
3. Do you ever use the Northside library in Charlottesville on Friday mornings or Wednesdays because our library is closed?

In addition to answering "yes" or "no" to these questions, responders are free to add their own written comments to the survey form.

The survey forms are available at the library's circulation desk. They will be collected through Wednesday, February 7, when the results will be collated.

Next Meeting: As stated above, the next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, at 7PM at the library. The sole item of business on the agenda is the forthcoming Festival of the Book program.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Friends of the Greene County Library, Inc.