

**Missoula Public Library
Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2005**

Members present: Becky Mosbacher, Kate Jackson, Christine Prescott, Bill Towle, John Brown, Tom Javins,

Others: Bette Ammon, director and acting secretary

Minutes - motion to approve, Becky Mosbacher; second, Kate Jackson. Approved.

Statistics - circulation statistics continue to increase. Bette distributed statewide comparison statistics for FY 04 and a current *Library Journal* article detailing budget numbers for libraries throughout the US. In comparison with the other 4 large public libraries in Montana, MPL is first in registered borrowers and registered borrowers per capita, has the highest materials budget, and holds the largest number of magazine titles. Bette noted that Missoula bears the closest resemblance to Flathead County Public Library since, like FCL, Missoula is a county library with branches.

Claims - motion to approve, Christine Prescott; second, Becky Mosbacher. Approved.

Old Business:

Policy change recommendation - tabled until Bette hears back from Mike Sehestedt at the County Attorney's office.

Video projection system - the Board examined two bids on a video projection system for the large meeting room. One was from Vann's in Missoula (\$12,310), the other from John Grasso (\$11,465). The Board agreed that the items and the installation in the Vann's bid most fitted the Library's needs and that we need to build a system with as high a quality as we think we can afford but there was concern about prices on certain items. The Friends of MPL have committed \$1,000 for this project and the MPL Foundation has allocated \$5,000. Tom Javins, with assistance from Jim Semmelroth, will compare specifications and prices on the recommended projectors. Motion to accept Vann's bid based on best price and quality of elements not to exceed the presented bid, Kate Jackson; second, Christine Prescott. Approved. In addition, Bette is instructed to get a firm bid from the electrician for the lighting modifications.

New Business:

Board officer election - motion to approve Bill Towle as Chair and Becky Mosbacher as vice-chair for 2005, Christine Prescott; second, Kate Jackson. Approved.

Legislative news - HB 184 - a bill to modify library federation law was passed from the House to the Senate. It was carried by Representative Dave McAlpin from Missoula. SB 129 - to modify current library district law was carried by Senator Wheat from

Bozeman and is faring well also. Bette has been working to plan Library Day at the State Library scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2005.

Staff room improvements - Bette distributed a list of staff improvements suggested by the staff. Bette noted that some items such as a new stove and new ceiling tiles could be purchased right away. The Board asked Bette to request some funding from the Friends and ask library staff to form a committee. This committee can prioritize staff room improvements based on a budget in the \$3,000-\$4,000 range - to be determined at the next Board meeting.

Other new business:

Bette called the Board's attention to a product from Sirsi which uses a computerized voice system to call patrons with information concerning holds and overdues. Bozeman Public Library had such a system before they joined the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) and they would like to share costs to purchase the Sirsi version. Bette and Claire participated in a conference call with Bozeman, Flathead County and the MSC staff from the State Library and recommend not to participate at this time. The MPL Board is not interested in this type of a system at this time and asks that we try again to encourage patrons to get information via email.

Director's report:

Bette noted the death of longtime staff member Linda Crump who died on January 17, 2005. Linda had been bravely struggling with cancer for over a year and will truly be missed by both staff and patrons. Bette expressed gratitude to the Board for allowing a two hour Library closure to pay tribute to Linda and bring in a grief counselor for staff.

A sample of a neon OPEN sign was shown to the Board. Bette would like to have two signs custom built and installed at both entrances. The Board agreed.

The upcoming National Library of Medicine/American Library Association Frankenstein exhibit will feature the daughter of Boris Karloff - Sara Karloff at the April 27 opening event.

Next meeting - February 24, 2005 at 5:15 pm.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Ammon, Director

Date

William Towle, Chair

Date