

THE DALLES-WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY

East Seventh Place and Court Street

The Dalles, Oregon 97058

November 6, 1974
Board Minutes

Attending were Board Members Mrs. Meg Smith, Mrs. Ann Turner, Mr. Jim Kribs and Librarian Richard Wagner.

1. Mr. Wagner presented Mrs. Wm. Dick recently retired Board member, with a commendation from The Dalles City Council for her many years of service to the library and the community.

2. Mr. Pat Brown, a student at The Dalles High School, presented the Board with a petition requesting that the Library be open later in the evening. Mr. Brown expressed the opinion that after students had been dismissed from school and completed participation in their various extra-curricular activities (sports, debating clubs, after-school jobs, etc.) and had had supper there was not enough time to study before the library closed. It was the unanimous decision of the Board that financial restrictions which have already forced a reduction in staff coverage precluded extending library hours in the evening without compensating reductions at other times. Mr. Wagner stated that evening use of the Library by high school students was sparse and sporadic and he did not feel that later opening hours would be desirable. Shifting the hours of operation to the evening would result in limited accessibility to senior citizens, parents and organizations with pre-school children (Day Care, Head Start, etc.) and would restrict the availability of the Library to school group tours during the morning hours. The Library Board concurred unanimously that in the present circumstances the requested change in hours would be contrary to the Public Library's obligation of service to all segments of the community. It was suggested that Mr. Brown contact the appropriate offices at The Dalles High School and explore the possibility of the High School Library being kept open later than 5:00.

3. Mr. Wagner read a letter from Mr. Gene R. Hughey, 605 Union St., The Dalles which also requested an extension of library hours. Mr. Wagner expressed the opinion that while extended hours of operation would be desirable financial limitations made them impossible. He also stated that our present number of open hours is representative of hours of service for city or county libraries serving populations comparable to ours, being near

the median for the most recently available state statistics and exceeding the mean. The Board agreed unanimously that the suggested change in hours was undesirable. It was decided that the Library's hours should remain as presently set.

4. There was a brief discussion of the implications of the anticipated 1975-1976 budget. The discussion centered upon establishing priorities in the event that any services had to be curtailed. It was decided to continue the discussion at the next Board meeting. No further action was taken.

5. Meeting adjourned at 9:45.