

## **Minutes**

### **Newberg Public Library Board May 16, 1991**

#### **Present**

##### **Board Members**

Kate Copenhaver  
Dorothy Rogers  
Linda Budan

##### **Staff**

Doreen Turpen  
Kathy Tri

##### **Other**

Lee Arbogast  
Bonnie Arbogast  
Allyn Brown  
Jean Harris  
Walter Gowell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kate Copenhaver.

**MOTION:** Rogers/Budan to accept the consent calendar. Motion carried

Chair Kate Copenhaver suggested that the agenda order be changed so that the Board's guest, Walter Gowell, could address the Board and other participants with his information about library foundations.

Gowell informed the Board that he had assisted with the formation of the McMinnville Library Foundation. He noted that the concept for that foundation was to establish a group that could provide additional outside support, particularly to improve the quality of the collection and to underwrite programs. The organizers did not want the foundation to become a source of funds for operating funds. They started with a \$4,000 contribution from the Friends of McMinnville Public Library. They see their role as a receiver of funds, particularly bequests and donations, rather than as active fund raisers. They do hold an annual author party which helps keep them visible in the community. They now manage approximately \$130,000 after seven years of existence.

Gowell described the foundation's organizational structure as self-perpetuating, noting that there is no membership and that Board members identify and seek additional members. Their by-laws do require that the Library Director be a non-voting, participating member of the Board.

Following Gowell's overview, Board members and others present entered into discussion and asked questions. They inquired about competition within the community for funds and whether that posed a problem. Gowell responded that he did not see a negative impact with new foundations, noting that his observation was that people participate where their interest lies. In answer to other questions Gowell noted that in the Foundation's formative period they had few funds to manage and that they spent much of their time discussing procedures. They established a policy that they would spend only earnings, and not principal. The Foundation's directors also held many discussions on whether to aggressively raise funds or to await the receipt of funds. He noted that it is difficult to have

a Foundation both actively seek funds for projects and establish a base for longevity. The McMinnville Library Foundation has taken the more passive role.

Following the conclusion of questions Mr. Gowell left.

Allyn Brown commented on his experience with other local foundations and indicated that he would be willing to undertake the paperwork and background work to start a foundation on the condition that it be endowment based. Kate Copenhaver and Jean Harris expressed interest in working with Brown to get the filings done and to identify potential Board members. Those present recommended that emphasis in a local library foundation be placed on establishing an endowment to provide for long-term support for the library rather than on raising funds for current projects.

Board Chair Kate Copenhaver then directed members back to the other agenda items.


**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Non-resident fees:** Discussion was held on the non-resident fee report provided by the Library Director. Linda Budan commented that she would like to see the Board take more time to assess the impact of raising the fees, noting that the last fee increase resulted in a large percentage increase. Kate Copenhaver echoed that comment noting that she would favor waiting a year and making a \$5.00 increase at that time. The Library Director called attention to the data in her report that indicates that there is no evidence that the last fee increase resulted in any reduction in use of the library by non-residents.

Discussion was also held on whether to continue providing a discounted senior card. It was noted that a flat 25% discount would probably result in an odd amount if the base fee was increased. It was also noted that there appears to be a trend away from providing discounts for seniors.

**MOTION:** Rogers/Budan to recommend the establishment of a new out of district fee at \$22.50 per family per year and \$17.50 per year for senior citizens. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

  
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Doreen Turpen, Library Director