

Newport Library Board Meeting July 16, 2008

Present: Rebecca Cohen, Carol Fisher, Curt Fewkes, Richard Kilbride, Terry Obteshka, Carol Ruggeri; Jennifer Keirans as note-taker.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Librarian's Report: Presented by Rebecca Cohen

Bridges to Literacy – a program that promotes literacy in the library and in schools. This year's theme is geology and paleontology, which fits in with the Middle School's existing curriculum. Topics will include earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and fossils. An author is booked for January: Liz Rusch, author of Will it Blow? Cohen hopes to have an educator from the John Day Fossil Beds lined up for February.

Usage Statistics: Modestly up for June.

Summer Reading 2008: Signups are about the same as last year; attendance at programs is significantly up. Literacy Park continues to be a great boon to Summer Reading.

Self-Checkout System: Cohen, along with librarians Kay Eldon and Sheryl Eldridge, has talked to some vendors of self-checkout systems. Unfortunately, these vendors have made some questionable behind-the back moves, possibly in an effort to pressure the library; the library has responded by pulling back. Cohen says that she and the others are proceeding cautiously and want to do more research before they commit.

DVD Security: On the other hand, security cases for DVDs have been purchased and the library plans to make the big transition (from the current method of processing DVDs to the new one) on Sunday, July 27. Cohen expects that the situation will be fairly labor-intensive for library staff for the next couple of weeks after that, but we are ready to go.

New Staff Member: the library hired Stacy Johns, already a part-time temporary worker, to replace Sheridan Price, who will be retiring.

Newport Reads 2009: All three authors will be in Newport to do programs for this event.

Privacy and Confidentiality Statement: This was accepted as written. It will be added to the policy manual and will also be published in a format that can be made available to the public.

November Option Tax Levy for the Lincoln County Library District: This is a renewal of an existing levy. It is the Library District's project; the Board will support the Library District as needed.

Other business: Dick Fowler, a member of Rotary, is interested in having some sort of shelter over the stage in Literacy Park. The Board raised two concerns with this: one,

that this shelter would be an inviting place to sleep and live by transients; and two, that a shelter over the stage would leave the audience unsheltered, and what's the point of that?

Fewkes suggested that a better project for Rotary would be a path/staircase down to Literacy Park from the southwest corner of the Library parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.