

Friends of the Westside Library Minutes of the meeting 05/26/2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

The minutes of the last two meetings were read by Dorothy Sacks and approved.

Our treasurer reported that we now have sufficient funds to become a 501(C)3 and she is working on submitting the paperwork.

Dorothy reported that the summerfest book sale is going well. The public now has more awareness of our group. We have had a few memberships and we have had quite a bit of money from the sale of the books. The adult books are being sold on several yahoo groups and that seems to work better than having them at Summerfest. The children's books sell very well at our booth.

Since everyone is busy, we voted to have no meeting in June. Our next meeting will be on July 28, 2011 at the Brazoria County PCT4 substation in the Pearland Town Center.

Cathy Threadgill reported that the state budget is not going well for our libraries. Textshare has been cut by half. The Lonestar Libraries and the k-12 databases have been cut from the budget entirely. Overall the budget has been cut by 60%. This means that the libraries will also lose over 50% of their federal funding as well.

The budget for a storefront library would be ½ million dollars.

An extra person is being hired for the substation due to its volume. The County will not be looking for volunteers to help at the substation until after this person is hired.

The telecom bill is still in committee and will expire in January 2012 meaning that libraries may need to pay an extra \$66,000 per month for their internet services. We need to prod the committee members to act on the bill.

Our basket made \$50.00 at Angleton for the Brazoria County system.

The libraries are now starting to have ebooks for loan. From April 11 to May 24th, the webpage for ebooks has had 2786 sessions. You can borrow 3 ebooks at a time. The average wait for a title is 6 days. The publishers want to make ebooks a short term purchase with libraries having to repurchase after a book has been loaned 24 times. Overdrive which is the ebook system has raised its rates by 700% making it hard to keep up with purchases given the budget crunch.

The Alvin Library reopened on May 19.

We voted to approve the 501(C)3 application. The state has a 5 month backlog on applications, so we will not be getting the tax number for some time.

We discussed future fundraising events including a silent auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Sacks, Secretary

Our commissioners for the county are:

Commissioner, Pct 1 – Dude Payne dudep@brazoria-county.com

Commissioner, Pct. 2 - Matt Sebesta matts@brazoria-county.com

Commissioner, Pct. 3 - Stacy L. Adams stacya@brazoria-county.com

Commissioner, Pct. 4 - Larry Stanley larrys@brazoria-county.com

Our county judge is: Joe King countyjudge@brazoria-county.com

The Brazoria County Website is:

<http://www.brazoria-county.com/>

<http://www.brazoria-county.com/Directory.asp>

The county library website is:

<http://bcls.lib.tx.us/>

Our branch is listed at: <http://bcls.lib.tx.us/branches/pws/pearlandwest.asp>