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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 20, 2015

DATE: September 30, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners and
Library Board of Trustees
FROM: Arnie Maurins, Library Director
327-8340; amaurins@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Acknowledge the staff report on the Duncan-Traner and Verdi
Community Libraries (Commission Districts 3 and 5)

SUMMARY

Staff requests that the Board of County Commissioners and Library Board of Trustees acknowledge the report on the Duncan-Traner and Verdi Community Libraries.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

At the present time, Library Administration is not contemplating any changes in public hours at either the Duncan/Traner or Verdi Community Libraries. Staff may, however, propose revised hours to the Library Board based on developments as they may occur. Depending on the nature of those developments, such a proposal may include changes in the way that County Library staff is deployed at one or both locations. A summary of recent and future endeavors that may impact public hours is provided below.

Under the leadership of Darryl Feemster, a "Friends of Duncan-Traner Library" group (not affiliated with the Friends of Washoe County Library, and hereinafter referred to as "FDTL") has been meeting to discuss library needs of the local population, along with options for supplementing the services that the County Library is able to provide. To date, FDTL has addressed various items, including but not limited to:

AGENDA ITEM # 16

- Library hours: Surveys distributed to local residents in August were to be reviewed at the October 1st FDTL meeting. The Library Director will use the information in the surveys as one component in any proposal he makes to the Library Board regarding public hours.
- UNR fraternity and sorority volunteers who could read with children at the library
- The Northern Nevada Literacy Center has proposed offering classes for ESL, computer skills and GED preparation at the library.
- FDTL is seeking to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

These items, along with other outcomes from the October 1st FDTL meeting, may be reported on orally at the joint meeting of Library Trustees and County Commissioners.

As a long-range initiative, the Children's Cabinet has brought forth a proposal to re-purpose the Duncan-Traner Community Library as a neighborhood center, modeled on the existing Family Resource Centers and providing wrap-around services to local residents. Trustee Wilson and I attended a meeting on September 1st where participants discussed the concept. (Please see the appended meeting notes as drafted by Katy Simon Holland, who is working with the Children's Cabinet on developing the idea.) The proposal looks promising, and requires further research.

Regarding the Verdi Library, a group of local supporters has been meeting to discuss ways to keep the library open. Based on Library staff observations that the majority of Verdi's patrons use the library primarily for picking up items they've placed on hold, the Library has ordered a locker system that was tentatively scheduled to be installed outside the facility's front doors sometime in October. The lockers will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and will enable patrons to use a PIN to pick up books and other library materials that have been pre-checked out to them. Based on the lockers' impact on the number of visitors into the library itself, along with the results of the local support group's efforts, Library Administration may bring a proposal to the Board of Trustees to revise the Verdi Community Library's hours.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge the staff report on the Duncan/Traner and Verdi Community Libraries.

POSSIBLE MOTIONS

Should the two Boards agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

Move to acknowledge the staff report on the Duncan-Traner and Verdi Community Libraries.

The attached document was submitted to the
Washoe County Board of Commissioners during
the meeting held on Lib. Board of Trustees
10-20-15.
by Arnie Maurins
for Agenda Item No. 16
and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as
amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.

Children's Cabinet Strategic Planning Committee

Focus Group

September 1, 2015

Meeting Summary

Attendees: Mike Reed, Caryn Swobe, Susan Robinson, Keith Lee, Ronda Clifton, Judge Scott Freeman, Arnie Maurins, Michael Dermody, Darryl Feemster, Angie Taylor, Lisa Guzman, Michael Moulian, Jane Holman, Derek Wilson, Brenda Hess

Michael Dermody provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting, which was to explore the idea of a partnership between the Library system and agencies providing wrap-around services that would be appropriate to particular neighborhoods, with the goal of obtaining corporate sponsorships to help support needed services.

Arnie Maurins, Washoe County Library Director, provided an update on Duncan-Traner Library. The Library is open 5 hours per week (3-5:30 pm Tues/Thurs) in addition to the school hours. There are an estimated 12 computers with internet capability. The patrons are mostly children, many of whom actively used the Library for the summer reading program. There is a plan to add wifi after hours (a current school policy prevents having wifi during school hours). It is hoped that the Library can function as a health bonding and socializing place for kids and young families.

Susan Robinson, Director of the Literacy Council, outlined their proposal to staff the Library with support from the Library system. They could offer ESL classes and programming through the United Way Read by 3 Grant, including a family reading program.

Darryl Feemster shared his perspectives as one of the leaders of the effort to continue services at the Library. He thanked the Library system and the Literacy Council for their work to solve the immediate issue. As a result of the attention that has been brought to the issue, 50 children have signed up for new Library cards. Many new partners have come forward, including UNR fraternity and sorority representatives. Darryl talked about the importance and value of the Library in that neighborhood, and shared the comment from an adult he met who said, "If not for this Library, I wouldn't have gotten my GED." Darryl also reported that a survey was done at Glen Duncan School, and of a 580-student population, fewer than 15 reported having access to a computer at home.

Derek Wilson, Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, stated that no one in the Library system wants to reduce hours. There are many demands on the Library system, and high cost per patron is hard to justify when collections need to be enhanced throughout the system. The Library needs to add expensive high-tech materials with a short shelf-life, and there are significant critical mass issues. There must be a comprehensive availability of materials and services in order to make the Library branches viable. The Library system is continually looking for ways to be more innovative and efficient.

- BCC Library Board 10-20-15
#16 Arnie Maurins

Michael Moulian gave an overview of the Family Resource Centers (FRC's). They began in 1995 as a result of NRS 438. There are now 18 in the state; there are five branches in Washoe County, and they are considered one agency of that 18. Washoe County School District is the fiscal agent for the primarily State funding and provides four of the five sites, though the School District does not contribute any direct funding. The five branches are: Sparks High, Wooster High, Bernice Matthews School, Sun Valley Community Center, and O'Brien Middle School in the North Valleys, served by a total of 15 FTE's. They are focused on low income/high risk neighborhoods. The FRC's serve anyone in the target areas. Their mission is to see that families get all the services they need and are eligible for, including housing, food, energy assistance, limited health services, home visits for at-risk newborns, and other services tailored to the needs of the family. Last year, the FRC's in Washoe County served approximately 10,000 people. They provide Differential Response as a preventive measure.

Following much discussion, the group agreed that ***the focus of this effort would be to explore creating Neighborhood Centers via public/private partnerships that could be a collocation of Libraries and FRC's, with services that are appropriate to a given neighborhood, and would be an effort to integrate academic, job readiness, and social services, possibly with loaned staff from critically-needed agencies. Ideally, a center would be substantially governed by local neighbors.*** The group was encouraged to look at the FRC's in San Diego, which were funded by California's Tobacco Settlement money, and which include State Welfare services, WIC, Social Security, and other federal, state and local services all in a "one-stop shop". Attendees were reminded that Centers need to be located with easy access to public transportation.

Mike Reed suggested that an "inventory" be prepared to outline who does what at the five existing FRC's, and also a summary of the top three things each FRC would need to better serve and expand in local neighborhoods.

Next steps:

- Request that the FRC's provide the inventory of what's provided at each site and the top three things that would allow them to better serve and go to the next level of outcomes for the families they serve
- Research the San Diego model and other models that might address the goals of this effort
- Coordinate with Renown and the Healthy Communities effort
- Develop a white paper about the unmet needs and the possible solutions
- Schedule a follow-up meeting as needed