# LIBRARY TASK FORCE
# MINUTES
## Thursday, November 3, 2005
## 5:30 p.m. Keizer City Hall
## City Manager's Office

1. **CALL TO ORDER** ~ Richard Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

| Present | Also Present: |
|---|---|
| Richard Walsh | Shannon Johnson |
| Lea Jenny | Eric Howald, Keizer Times |
| Eric Meurer | Jim Scheppke, State Librarian OLA |
| Nancy Woodward | Jan Deardorff, Executive Director Reading Connection |
| Lore Christopher (6:20) | |
| **Absent:** | |
| Scotta Callister | Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder |
| Patrick McGarrah | |
| Jim Taylor | |

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** ~ Nancy Woodward moved to approve the May 5, 2005 Minutes. Eric Meurer seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present: (Walsh, Jenny, Meurer and Woodward)

4. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** ~ The new Executive Director of the Reading Connection, Jan Deardorff, introduced herself and explained that for an enterprise that has no budget, The Reading Connection is doing amazingly well. There are 600 active family members, 5% of which are either singles or couples only with a total patronage of 1700. There about 13,000 volumes with circulation running 600-700 each month or 8,000-10,000 per year. The facility is open 15 hours per week, has seven volunteers and three substitutes. The organization is incorporated and is a good foundation for a city library. She then explained some of the outreach efforts being made with the elderly and preschoolers and stressed the importance of continued outreach.

5. **OLD BUSINESS** ~ Richard Walsh reviewed briefly the past proposals submitted to CCRLS and the response to those proposals. He explained that the City Managers developed the "net effect" proposal which was received with a degree of favor from CCRLS who formed a committee and hired a consultant/mediator to work towards a

resolution. A modification of the proposal was developed at subsequent joint meetings and will be presented to the CCRLS Advisory Board who, upon their approval, will recommend it to the full CCRLS college board. Eric Muerer reported that the board has indicated that it is possible for Keizer to become a member in the CCRLS and the city's relationship with the other members would be outlined as in the Managers' proposal: essentially forming a library as outlined with an accounting process stipulating that if the city creates a burden to other libraries it would be accounted for dollar wise. i.e., if the Keizer population used other libraries more than other populace used Keizer library, the city would pay the difference.
Mr. Scheppke added that the CCRLS has hired an economist (Ron Chastain) who spoke to him about this and who was supposed to determine an appropriate cost and model it out so that the city would know what their cost would be. He added that he thought the proposed plan would cost the city a lot; possibly more than just having a library that meets the standard. He strongly suggested that no decision be made until the proposal has been modeled out.

Chair Walsh responded that the CCRLS has agreed to do some "coding" so that determination can be made as to Keizer usage of the library and the cost. He added that, should the task force support the general concept, an expert would figure out the cost per book and other services. Discussion then took place regarding the ballot measure, equitable formulas, facilities, budget, funding and levy vs. district.
Mr. Scheppke suggested that a new plan be developed based on the Managers' Proposal, showing the "big picture" of the "non-traditional library" and a model of costs be determined by a library consultant. Shannon Johnson suggested that a "preliminary okay" from either the CCRLS Advisory Board or the actual CCRLS be in hand prior to retaining a library consultant. Mr. Scheppke suggested that perhaps CCRLS and Keizer could share the cost of the consultant adding that the consultant should evaluate this proposal and offer suggestions. Eric Muerer noted that after the task force gets an assent to move forward and if the CCRLS Advisory Committee gets the same, then it would be appropriate to begin the refinement of the proposal with accurate numbers, get approval from CCRLS, hire a consultant to crunch the numbers and put the issue on the ballot. Discussion then took place regarding who would be responsible for hiring and paying for a consultant.

<u>It was the general consensus of the task force that the proposal is an approach that warrants further study and should be moved forward.</u>

Additional discussion took place regarding the time frame of this and the advisability of putting it on the 2006 ballot. If the City Hall measure passes in 2006, the actual building would not take place until after 2007 so the library measure might be more palatable if put on the 2007 ballot. Mr. Walsh agreed to call Greg Nielson with the CCRLS to see how far the process had gone with the PYM and suggest getting together and refining details. Additional discussion took place regarding available grants, and the usefulness of Library Consultants.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS** ~ Lea Jenny showed some old classic books that have been donated and suggested that they would be fun to have on display in the children's section of the new library.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** ~ The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

***Next meeting ~Thursday, December 1, 2005, at 5:30 pm, Conference Room A***