

This was a continuation of the May 12, 2009 worksession of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

Present and presiding:

Mayor	Mark Chilton
Aldermen	Dan Coleman
	John Herrera
	Lydia Lavelle
	Joal Hall Broun
	Jacquelyn Gist
	Randee Haven-O'Donnell
Town Manager	Steven E. Stewart
Town Clerk	Sarah C. Williamson
Town Attorney	Michael B. Brough

DISCUSSION OF LIBRARY SERVICES

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAN COLEMAN AND SECONDED BY JACQUELYN GIST THAT THE TOWN STAFF DRAFT A LETTER TO THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. There have been an overwhelming number of phone calls and emails from citizens about the possibility of losing the McDougle School Library.
2. We've been working towards a free-standing library for 15+ years and the library task force report's #1 priority included the southwest regional branch in Carrboro as well as the northern branch in Cedar Grove. Closing these libraries will take us backwards and make it harder to make the leap. Let's stay focused on the big picture.
3. In times of economic hardship, public libraries are more important than ever: many of those most in need of library services will be those least able to afford to travel to the central library in Hillsborough. It is vital that internet access be provided to citizens to allow for job searches and access to public information.
4. Library Services are central to our values. This is a community that places a premium on education and literacy as evidenced by Carrboro's annual contribution to the McDougle library for a number of years. We all know some cuts in service will be necessary in virtually every department, but the wholesale closure of libraries is too drastic. It is critically important to keep the current collection together and accessible to the people who assembled it.
5. Shifting costs to library patrons via fee for services: Reducing library services in Orange County will increase demand on the Chapel Hill library, thereby encouraging Chapel Hill's interest in charging for library cards. This will further shift the cost to library patrons by upwards

of \$100 each. Orange County values hold that libraries should be a public service, not one restricted to those who can afford a library card.

6. Shifting costs to library patrons via travel costs: the two branch libraries had 36,684 patrons in 2008. Assuming each of these (on average), travels once a month to the central library and the average increased drive is 5 miles each way, then *the additional fuel cost to those patrons is \$393,042* annually (@ 28 mpg, \$2.50 gallon) far exceeding the savings to the county budget.

7. Significant carbon emissions impact runs contrary to county's environmental goals: those additional miles yield an increase in gas consumption of 157,217 gallons leading to increased CO2 emissions of nearly 8000 tons annually.

8. There will be relatively small savings to the county compared to the loss to our community.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

MOTION WAS MADE BY RANDEE HAVEN-O'DONNELL THAT #2 BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE A REQUEST THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATE THE \$3+ MILLION IN THE CIP FOR BRANCH LIBRARY SERVICES.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE FIVE, NEGATIVE TWO (COLEMAN, GIST)

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACQUELYN GIST AND SECONDED BY DAN COLEMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 P.M. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Mayor

Town Clerk