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## **Cabot Public Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2006**

Present: Trustees Paula Davidson (treas.), R.D. Eno, Diana Klingler, Ron Lay-Sleeper,  
Connie Koeller (librarian)

Meeting called to order 5:30 PM.

Minutes of meeting of February 9 not approved; R.D. will rewrite.

Introduction of new trustees Diana and Ron.

General Discussion of Library uses and programs.

Discussion of noise issue. Will Sally Rushman continue to talk with Chris Kaldor about complaints from town office?

Tour of the Library and general discussion of the shelving replacement project. A petition to revote the \$17,925 UDAG Grant approved at Town Meeting is expected. (The original grant request was \$30,712.50, which was reduced by agreement with the UDAG Committee.) Trustees examined the old shelving, observed functional problems, ascertained that shelving is built of single horizontal planks separated by individual spacers nailed from above. Can some material be reused? The trustees would like to meet with cabinet-maker Paul Council, who built the new shelves in the Children's Area and designed the reconstruction project.

The trustee representative will join other members of the Willey Building Committee to meet and discuss the Library project.

Adjourned 7:00 PM.

Submitted by R.D. Eno  
Cabot Public Library  
Special Trustee Meeting  
March 20, 2006

Present: Trustees Paula Davidson (chair), Ron Lay-Sleeper (treas.), R.D. Eno (sec.), Judy Boucher, Diana Klingler; Connie Koeller (librarian); Will Walters

Meeting called to order 7:08 PM/

Minutes of Meeting of February 9, amended (R.D. moved, Paula seconded) to reflect actual original UDAG request of \$30,712.50, adopted as amended (Judy moved, R.D. seconded).

Election of officers: Paula Davidson, chair; Ron Lay-Sleeper, treasurer, R.D. Eno secretary,

all unanimously.

Discussion of shelving project. Connie reported patrons, coming in to inquire, have seen the problem at once; many have said they can tell from the children's room renovation that the new shelves in the adult area would preserve the character of the room. A former trustee regards shelving upgrade as continuation of renovation project that includes lights, floor, children's room shelving. Judy, in conversations with community members, understands that some have concerns that the trustees did not consult the Willey Building Committee in planning the renovations. R.D. informed trustees of meeting of Willey Building Committee, Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM; he will attend as trustee member. He received suggestions from the trustees. Connie and Paula will be meeting with Chris Kaldor to discuss noise issues. Trustees agreed to improve communication with community; R.D. will post trustee minutes at Town Hall and Post Office.

Will Walters informed trustees about Cabot website and invited trustees to post notices and minutes there. R.D. will do so.

Further discussion of community relations. A recount of the UDAG vote will be conducted on Wednesday, March 22 and a petition to stop the shelving project (not to rescind the UDAG vote) is being circulated. Trustees composed a letter to the editor (text appended) for Paula's signature in which trustees stress that new shelving will "respect the historic character of the Willey Memorial Building" and preserve as much as possible of the original shelving.

Discussion of Law of Public Libraries.

Adjourned at 9:30 PM  
Submitted by R.D. Eno, March 21, 2006

Text of Letter to the Editor:

As the trustees of the Cabot Public Library, we take pride in the beautiful renovations completed in recent years, which have made the library a more inviting and functional space while maintaining the beauty of its original rooms and shelving. New shelves have been in place in the children's room for a few years now, and adults and children alike have been pleased – the room is as charming and elegant as before, but now young hands can reach the books. We extend an invitation to all community members to visit the library to view the children's room, and also to see the problems we seek to resolve with continuing renovations in the adult room. In brief, the original shelves are not adjustable and their spaces are too short for most books. The books must be stacked flat or on their edges which damages them and makes it very hard to find, retrieve and reshelve many titles. Our library use has more than doubled in the past five years, compounding these problems.

With the help of a UDAG Grant, we plan to update the shelving to make it functional, while maintaining the beauty of the design and respecting the historic character of the Willey Memorial Building. This goal means that we'll spend more money on custom-made wood shelving, stained to match the original trim and cut to conform to the uneven walls and floors.

Library trustees are still meeting with cabinetmakers to discuss our options for creating functional shelving while maintaining as much as possible of the original structure and trim

details, and keeping within our budget. We are also meeting with the Willey Building Committee to discuss the project. We welcome input from the community. Please call a library trustee if you have any questions, or come to a trustee meeting the second Thursday of the month at 5:15.