

City's actions make library board members feel unwanted

By CAROLYN SWIFT

Santa Cruz Public Library City and County Board of Trustees will consider no action to reopen branch libraries until after a "summit meeting," on the library system is held between the county Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz city council.

Library trustees expressed a growing frustration Monday that city council actions concerning administration of the library system have by-passed the board on several occasions in past months. And so far, trustees have received no formal invitation to participate in the upcoming city-county discussions. Board members are further concerned about the lack of a strong legal definition of their role and authority in city-county library affairs.

No date has yet been set for the meeting between supervisors and the city council. The joint session was suggested after supervisors approved budget funding of \$783,634 as the county share of library costs that equal about 66 percent of the total library budget. Santa Cruz provides the remainder to equal 85 percent of the first proposed budget for the year.

Library trustees were told the first motion on library

budget funding considered by supervisors included recommendations to force the reopening of branch libraries closed after passage of Proposition 13. These included Soquel, Ben Lomond and La Selva Beach branches and the Bookmobile.

But the final policy statement and library budget approved by the county included no specific action on the reopening of the closed branches.

Charles Atkins, city-county librarian, said he is concerned that nearly half the library budget of approximately \$1,200,000 consists of funding on a one-time-only basis. There are hopes the legislature may provide additional funding, Atkins said, but if the decision on funding is made after Dec. 1, it will be too late to solve fiscal problems for this year.

The city-county librarian said it is possible to reopen the branch libraries, "but it means we must take money from one place and put it in another." He estimated it will cost \$46,254 to reopen Soquel, Ben Lomond, La Selva Beach and service of the Bookmobile. Garfield Park Library has already reopened because additional funding was allocated by the city.

Atkins said that if the

branches are reopened, it will mean a loss of some \$23,250 from the funding budgeted for the purchase of additional books.

Trustees raised questions about the board's authority after a "package" of documents was presented by Robert Ginsberg, supporter of a volunteer system to assist in the library branches who has campaigned for reopening of the La Selva Beach Branch.

Ginsberg claims the Santa Cruz city attorney was inaccurate to rule that the library board is an advisory body to the city council. He believes the board of trustees is the head of a joint library system and is in charge of library affairs even though the system is operated through the city. He further urged the board to authorize expenditures for additional legal advice.

Trustee Leonard Greenberg said he agreed with Gins-

berg's opinion. "I hope this matter of duties and responsibilities of the board can be resolved," he said, "Even though we've had a by-laws subcommittee, it skirted this issue. Most people seem to think the board has more power than the board itself thinks it does. I believe in the fact the board has more authority than it has chosen to exercise, but as long as we continue in this gray zone, we will continue to have things done for us."

Greenberg mentioned the decision of the city to reopen the Garfield Branch Library as one that by-passed the library board of trustees.

Trustee Sara Bunnett suggested the "board act whichever way it feels is right until another opinion is given. "We can continue to act until someone tells us to stop and the matter comes to a head," she said.

Both Gerald Towner, board

president, and Trustee Mary Ann Kaplan suggested that an investigation of the board's duties and powers wait until after the joint city-county meeting, but Greenberg disagreed.

"I think we should proceed on the basis of what we feel is right, until we are told otherwise," he said, "And not the other way around."

Board members received further advice from Ginsberg Monday regarding volunteers. Mrs. Bunnett agreed that

since volunteers have been used successfully in other libraries, there is a possibility a volunteer system can be initiated here.

A La Selva Beach Library Guild has been organized to lobby for reopening of that branch, and presented library trustees with a number of ideas for both volunteer support and funding. The group estimated operating costs for the library can be cut by nearly \$9,000. An offer of rent reduction was also sub-

mitted by La Selva Beach Recreation District.

The board agreed to reply to the offer with a statement of sympathy and understanding for the community's desire to re-establish its library branch. A letter will be sent with an assurance the costs of operation for the branch libraries will be studied, although no action will be

taken immediately to reopen the La Selva branch.

During a discussion of the budget, Greenberg noted that more than 700 hours per month have been cut from the total library system, including the Bookmobile and central library. He urged strong public support for the libraries and organization of Friends of the Library chapters.

ATTENTION HAIRDRESSERS!!

Jan's Magic Comb is taking applications for two additional stylists, full and part time.

I'm sure the salon you're wanting to work in must have certain qualifications in order for you to work there, just as all my stylists must meet certain qualifications to work here. Call me for an interview if you feel qualified for the job.

1. Only happy hairdressers need apply. Our business is a happy one, and getting along with the patrons is as important as being able to do their hair.
2. Must be experienced in the use of the curling iron and hair blower.
3. Must be willing to help and be helped by other stylists.
4. Our shop has a dress code!! Neatness!

If you think this is you, please come in and we'll talk things over, including the PAID VACATION all my stylists receive. I am anxious to meet you, so call for the interview.

Jan

Jan's Magic Comb
40 Mariposa Ave.
722-1371



STOCK FABRIC CLEARANCE DIVAN or CHAIR REUPHOLSTERED



- SPRINGS RETIED
- FRAMES REBRACED
- 10-DAY SERVICE
- BUDGET TERMS

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
LICENSED
BONDED • INSURED

Wastock
Prints
Herculons
Nylons, Velvets

FURNITURE
CAMPER TRAILER
CUSHIONS
MADE TO ORDER

SHOP AT HOME
FREE ESTIMATES.
PICKUP & DELIV-
ERY.

Gene Kender's
BESTWAY CUSTOM INTERIORS

APTOS
688-3244

CALL ANYTIME
DAY OR NIGHT

WATSONVILLE
724-4764