

Administration
Libraries-1980-1985

Boulder Creek Library Held In Limbo Until Budget Talks

Development of the proposed Boulder Creek branch library will be held in limbo for at least a month pending city and county adoption of their 1981-82 budgets.

The Library Board this morning was told by Librarian Charles Atkins that the county will begin its budget session June 17, while the city has scheduled its budget sessions June 24-26.

Although both the county and city have agreed to a funding proposal calling for a \$450,000 library, the action is not final and work on the library cannot proceed until the budget adoptions are actually made, Atkins said.

Once the budget adoptions are completed, efforts will be made to get an architect for the project. If past procedure is followed, the Library Board will have a say in this although the county is the lead agency for the entire project. Atkins indicated that after an architect has been hired and plans developed, it will take at least two board meetings to get kinks worked out of it.

Nothing was said at today's meet-

ing about setting up a hearing on project plans in Boulder Creek, as was done when the Aptos regional library was built several years ago. However, Atkins has in the past indicated a strong belief in getting suggestions from the general public a particular library branch will serve.

On the issue of staffing for the branch library, Atkins said the city is indeed the manager of the city-county library system and that it is the Santa Cruz City Council that must approve the staffing of all the libraries in the system. But, he added, the staffing in a branch would depend upon what funding the county provides. He noted, for example, that when the county ran short of funding for the system in the wake of Proposition 13 there were cutbacks in the number of branches, with Soquel and Ben Lomond branches cut loose from the system, the Capitola branch going under city of Capitola funding, and the LaSelva and Freedom branches going primarily under operation by volunteers.

Atkins said that a staffing dispute would not hold up construction of the

Boulder Creek branch, and that in the case of a dispute he would imagine it is the City Council that would decide the issue as manager of the system.

In another matter related to staffing, the Library Board divided 3 to 3 (Board Chairman Sara Bunnnett was absent) on whether to recommend that an additional library page be added to the library budget to serve 10 hours minimum weekly in the Freedom Library.

The Freedom Library is operated outside the city-county system in the Freedom Elementary School, with the county providing salary for the services of a librarian for 20 hours a week, a telephone, and rent to the Pajaro Valley School District.

Branch Supervisor Rosemary Milburn said the page for the Freedom library "is a very low priority," and Trustee Vern Berlin said he failed to see how the system could pay for a page to process books the system does not even own.

Reetz suggested, however, that perhaps the library system could train Friends of The Library to process books and thus provide some aid.