

County Has Funds For BC Library

SENT 2/3/81
Libraries 1980-1989

Admin

The county of Santa Cruz has almost \$500,000 in a building fund that can be tapped to build the proposed new library in Boulder Creek, the Library Board was told Monday by Librarian Charles Atkins.

"This money is held in reserve for this purpose and could be made available if the supervisors don't spend it on something else," Atkins added.

The Library Board sought funding information following its unanimous approval of building a library of at least 4,600 square feet on a donated 1.3-acre site on West Park Avenue.

Trustee Robert Blankholm won approval by his colleagues for specifically stating the building should contain at least 4,600 square feet.

"What would be wrong with making it 5,200 square feet?" Blankholm asked. "If we need the space, this is the time to build for the future. The library should be no less than 4,600 square feet but could be larger."

The proposed library would serve one of the major growth areas of the San Lorenzo Valley. There are thousands of converted weekend and summer homes now being used there for year-round living.

The building would serve some 11,000 persons in the area (at present) and would be expected to circulate some 72,000 volumes a year.

Boulder Creek is presently served by a 800-square-foot building that is open 30 hours weekly and circulates some 8,000 volumes per year.

In other major business Monday, Atkins told the Library Board it should be prepared at its March meeting to go over the 1981-82 budget line by line and to make its wishes known on programs it especially wants to finance in the fiscal year ahead.

At the request of Trustee Mary Ann Kaplan, Atkins

will make copies of the draft proposed budget available to the board members a week or so in advance of the meeting so they may study its details in depth.

The budget contains many items that are more or less fixed, Atkins said.

The current budget, he said by way of explanation, contains some \$947,000 for salaries, wages and benefits. This, he said, indicates that a library is a service-oriented facility and that much of the budget must go to those providing the service.

Another fixed expenditure is the 5 percent service charge the city of Santa Cruz gets for providing administrative, financial, legal and other services.

Bond redemption costs \$77,000 this coming year, Atkins said. The budget must include some \$90,000 for payment to the city of Watsonville library for the services it gives to county residents.

But Atkins stressed the Library Board has a responsibility to participate in the formulation of the final budget.

"You should be prepared to state at the March meeting the programs you want to finance," Atkins said. Trustee Jim Lee noted that Atkins, as a city officer, may be under political pressures in the formulation of a budget and that the Library Board should therefore "come out front" to request the money it thinks is needed to operate the system correctly.

William Emerson Hinchliff, a resident and sometime library critic, told the trustees Monday, "The board should be commended for its outstanding work, for its cumulative record of achievement."

Bicyclist Suffers Injury

In Collision

FIRE CALLS