

Josephine County Library Reopen Effort

News Release

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Josephine County citizens take action to reopen their library

GRANTS PASS, August 29, 2007—The first concrete steps toward the reopening of a public library system for all citizens of Josephine County were taken at a library steering committee meeting tonight. As part of a grassroots effort which began in late July, committee members adopted a mission statement, elected officers, and voted to form a new nonprofit organization to become part of what is hoped to be a public-private partnership with Josephine County.

“We’ve been working throughout August as an ad hoc group to explore options and discuss various ideas,” said Cathye Mason, the newly elected chair of the Steering Committee. “We have a great group of committed individuals, and scores of other volunteers ready to serve to make this happen.”

The mission, adopted tonight, is “To facilitate the opening and to ensure long-term operations of a public library system serving Josephine County.”

In addition to Chair Cathye Mason, the other officers elected to the steering committee are Linda Naydol as Vice Chair, Dennis Doyle as Treasurer, and Teresa Stover as Secretary. Ten steering committee members were present tonight.

Also participating in discussions were about 20 people from the public or from other subcommittees, including three members of the fundraising committee. Nine individuals volunteered to become involved in the effort, and two of them were elected to join the steering committee.

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Members of the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, as well as community professionals, sit on the Steering Committee. Former Library Director Cessa Vichi and County Commissioner Dave Toler also serve on the committee.

When the motion carried to form a new nonprofit organization, applause broke out. An attorney present as a guest provided the list of information that would be needed to complete the incorporation paperwork.

The committee will be meeting weekly to complete items needed for the formation of the organization, including a name for the organization and bylaws. Also under discussion is the budget and membership.

“Once we file our incorporation paperwork,” said Mason, “we can start moving toward membership drives and other fundraising efforts.”

Another library meeting was held at the same time at Grants Pass High School. “We want to clarify that that other meeting was not affiliated with our effort here tonight,” Mason said. “We regret the confusion this might have caused to the public.”

The next steering committee meeting will be 7 pm Tuesday, September 4, at the Josephine County Courthouse, Room 157. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

People interested in getting involved with the library reopening effort may contact Teresa Stover at 471-2931.

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