

AGENDA



**SPECIAL SESSION
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION
of the
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
473 S. Main Street, Room #106
THURSDAY, September 8, 2008
6:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Discussion, consideration, and possible recommendation to council on clarification of the roles of the Library Advisory Commission and the Citizens Committee for Camp Verde Library (CCCVL) relative to their role(s) in building a new library facility and in fund raising activities. This discussion may include but is not limited to the following topics, a memo to the Library Advisory Commission from the library staff expressing their concerns about this whole process so far, fundraising issues, location site, management, rumors of CCCVL management of the library over the next 20 years, grant approval, where the funds from any library commission fundraising events are to be deposited, requesting a written list of CCCVL's planned involvement.**

5. **Adjournment**

Posted by:

Henry P. Lamont

Date/Time:

8/29/2008 3:00 PM

Note: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.3, the Commission may vote to go into Executive Session for purposes of consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney on any matter listed on the Agenda, or discussion of records exempt by law from public inspection associated with an agenda item.

The Town of Camp Verde Council Chambers is accessible to the handicapped. Those with special accessibility or accommodation needs, such as large typeface print, may request these at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Any community, regardless of size, benefits from having a library. A well-designed, spacious and versatile library is even more of an asset to its citizens. The town of Camp Verde is fortunate in that it has many citizens who use the library for all its services, and who recognize that the current facility is woefully inadequate for today's needs. The fact that a group has formed to address the need of funding a new library is encouraging, but the staff has concerns about the process being put in place, and feels that now is the time to clarify issues and answer all questions.

The Camp Verde Community Library has flourished as a department of the Town by increasing its circulation figures substantially and expanding its services. The Library also enjoys the benefits of being a member of a diverse consortium of libraries --public libraries, school and university libraries, museum and special collection libraries. Our funding from Yavapai County allows to expand our collection each year, adding to electronic holdings and databases as well as the traditional books and tapes. Being active participating members of the network has also enabled us to "go behind the scenes" with our fellow YLN libraries who have been fortunate enough to build new facilities. Members of our staff have seen all areas of these facilities and gathered the opinions of those working in them.

The Library staff believes that CCCVL has chosen to ignore it as a valuable resource for assessing patron needs, space planning and site selection. At the beginning of a project of this size, we would hope that those people most intimately involved would not be left out. I also refer to the Library Advisory Commission, which has expressed its concerns and has been dismissed. The board members have been appointed to serve the community and should be given the respect of serious consideration of their input. We feel that clearly stating all facts, and not omitting those that are inconvenient, is the best way to present this project to the public. Anything less casts a shadow on the credibility of the fund-raising group.

A Town building fund for the construction of a new library has existed for a number of years. Page 61 of this year's budget describes it so: "The Library Building Fund is comprised of monies donated to the Town of Camp Verde with the express intention of being used to fund the construction of a new library facility. The majority of these monies were received as the result of the Camp Verde Public Library being named as the beneficiary of an estate. The Town receives quarterly distributions from the trust that is currently managing the estate. In addition to the monies received from the estate, other donations received from the public with the intent of being used for the construction of a new library are also included in the fund." This fund is not "seed money" for the CCCVL's fund raising efforts. It belongs to the library --as a department of the town.

The staff is also concerned about the choice of site. The cost of determining whether or not the site is usable as a flood plain area: tests, permits, studies regarding the effect on surrounding properties by building on this site, has not been calculated. The fact that the existing library would remain in place during construction, dictates a restricted use of the site, simply to save a building that would be torn down. The original recommendation of the downtown site has much to offer the patrons, staff, visitors and citizens in general. As an anchor for the town's retail area, community events and programs for adults and children would draw new users to the versatile building that today's library should be. Today's libraries are no longer just warehouses for book

collections. In a small town where the best use must be made of the funds available, it is imperative that the design be functional in all aspects of library use. **It would be a wise use of the funds available to hire an architect whose experience includes as much library design as possible. The staff feels that this is a must.**

As both employees and patrons of the Camp Verde Library, we ask that CCCVL and the Library Advisory Board combine their efforts to raise funds for the library building fund, *as it exists in the Town financial structure*, and to permit the Town to build a municipal building, as is usually done in communities. Anything worthwhile is worth waiting for, and a library that is a compromise is no bargain in the long run. We, who work every day with the people of Camp Verde, can offer valuable insight (that no one else can) into how this new facility should be designed and where it should be located. At present, the Library staff is unable to offer clear answers to patrons' questions about any proposed new library or how donations will be used and decisions will be made.

In summary, we ask that the Library Advisory Board present these requests to Town Council:

- **Open for consideration alternative building sites because:**

- The current library site is too small to offer adequate parking and to allow construction while the existing building remains.

- The recently purchased park land was not available when the decision was made.

- The uncertainty of the current site because of its flood plain status.

- The current site is not a "focal point" of the town.

- **Clarification of the Library Building Fund status as money belonging to the Town and its availability for use.**

- **A detailed written outline by CCCVL, stating its proposed plan and role in the development of a library for the Town of Camp Verde.**