

## What's in a name?

By Patrick Alan Coleman, Editor | Posted: Thursday, April 25, 2013 12:00 am

The San Miguel R2Jt Public Library District #2 is seeking a new name.

One of the main reasons for the name change according to district officials is that it isn't necessarily indicative of the district's location or the library attached to it. That location is Wright's Mesa and the library is Norwood Public Library (NPL).

"The district currently has a name assigned by the county," said NPL Director Carrie Andrew. She explained that the cumbersome name seems to cause some library patrons to believe that the NPL is associated with the Wilkinson Public Library in Telluride.

"We've had some confusion with people thinking we're a branch of them," Andrew said. "We're not affiliated with them in any way. Norwood has a pride in wanting to be their own library and their own district."

That pride is growing as the NPL makes moves to expand both services and infrastructure. The library recently finished creating a new technology room and has plans to begin construction on a new building in three to five years on land recently purchased off of San Miguel Street.

The plans for that construction also have a great deal to do with the motivation for a district name change, Andrew explained. She argued that a name that accurately reflects the district will likely help the NPL garner more support on future ballot measures that may be linked to the construction of a new library.

"In three to five years we will be going to the people. They need to be clear as to what our name is and know who they're voting for," Andrew said.

Andrew noted that some people may not understand why NPL is seeking to rename the district when it's unlikely anyone knows the current district name. In many ways it comes down to paperwork.

Recently, NPL ran into issues with Colo. regulators who noticed that documents submitted to the state, including library bylaws, featured different permutations of the district name. In many ways the name change is an effort to reconcile the district's uniqueness and geography with state and tax law, while creating community support.

"It's one of those weird puzzles where when you start trying to solve one problem you come into another problem," a bemused Andrew offered.

In order to solve the problem, NPL is reaching out to its patrons to help choose a name for the district that is truly indicative of the institution, its location and the people who use it. Importantly, another requirement is that the new name "allows the community to feel ownership" of the library district.

NPL has already solicited suggestion for a name. An online survey has also been created to garner input. Over 130 people have already responded.

So far the most popular suggestions include "Wrights Mesa Library District" with 29 votes, "Lone Cone Library District" with 36 votes and no-nonsense "Norwood Library District" with 49 votes.

One all-nonsense suggestion, “Snazzy Library District,” has just one solitary vote.

While Andrew certainly seems to be ready to accept what the public suggests, she will admit to having a favorite name in Lone Cone Library District.

“There are Norwoods all over the country,” Andrew said. “It’s not as unique as we might like.”

Andrew said that she feels the iconic image of the Lone Cone truly connects with the region and resonates with locals who hold the mountain dear. “But we’ll go with whatever the vote is,” she said.

The library will keep the voting process open through May and will give those who are not online an opportunity to vote via a physical, in-library board.

Andrew said that she hopes the name change will help create an even stronger NPL community as the library expands.

Patrons can find the survey online via the library’s Facebook page.