

Columbia County Library System Board
September 15, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Columbus Library
Columbus, Wisconsin

Board Members in Attendance:

Susanna Bradley
Nan Hughes
Nancy Long
Susan Martin
Betty Reiter

Board member Absent (With Notice)

Dianne Effinger

Library Directors in Attendance:

Jessica Bergin – Portage Public Library /County Resource Librarian
Cindy Fesemyer – Columbus Library

Visitors and Guests in Attendance:

Shawn Brommer - South Central Library System
Peter Kaland – President of the Columbus Library Board
Sue Salter – Columbus Library Board and Friends of the Columbus Library

Board President Nan Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Nan called the roll, and noted that the meeting had been properly noticed. She welcomed the guests and thanked them for attending the meeting. Both Mr. Kaland and Ms. Salter discussed their roles in the library and in the community.

President Hughes also thanked Library Director Cindy Fesemyer for hosting the meeting, and announced that the Columbus Library was named a finalist in the Best Small Libraries in America competition, sponsored by the *Library Journal*.

Approval of Agenda:

Susanna Bradley moved that the agenda be approved, and Betty Reiter seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the July 21, 2017 Meeting:

Susanna Bradley moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Upon Betty Reiter's second, the motion was approved without dissent.

County Library Board Advocacy Initiatives:

Sue Martin reported that she agreed upon letters to Library board presidents and municipality principals to invite and encourage them to attend the County Library Board System meetings when they are held in their municipality had been sent. In addition, letters of thanks to each of the library directors in the county were also sent.

Columbia County Library System Board Vacancy:

Margaret Vaughan has relocated, and has resigned from the Board. President Hughes contacted the leadership of the Lodi Women's Club Library (Ms. Vaughan's home library) to ask if they had any suggestions for her replacement. The response was that since Nancy Long, who is also from Lodi, sits on the CCLSB their library is well represented, and suggested that perhaps the replacement should come from another of the county's libraries. As the County Resource Librarian, Ms. Bergin will first solicit nominations from Poynette and Rio. In order to fill the vacancy as soon as possible, it was suggested that an e-mail vote on forwarding a name to the county clerk for inclusion on the County Board agenda be conducted.

Discussion of the Press Release for the Annual Report Highlights:

Ms. Bergin will ask Trish Frankland if she would be willing to once again prepare this report once the 2017 statistics have been compiled.

Update on the Status of IMLS Budgeting:

As earlier reported, this funding has been restored to the Federal budget; however, the issue will continue to be monitored.

Update on Silent Sports and Bicycle Repair Stations:

Nancy Long reported that the Silent Sports Committee is focusing on bicycle safety education, and mentioned an Ambassador Program which stresses bicycle safety and is available for presentations around the State. In the future, this committee will meet with the Economic Development Committee, because of its connection to county tourism.

The county map of its bicycle routes will be revised for 2018, and will include the location of bicycle repair stations on those routes. While the CCLSB agrees that stations would be a beneficial addition to the service offered by libraries, it was also mentioned that the cost of such a station could be outside of the financial resources of some of those libraries.

Cindy Fesemyer mentioned that the City of Columbus has a mechanical station at a local park, and the park is the site of an annual bike rodeo during Pedal Days in Columbus.

Resource Library Report:

Ms. Bergin is concentrating on her budget meeting with the County Finance Committee on September 18. Nan Hughes, Susanna Bradley and possibly Cindy Fesemyer will attend the hearing with her. She plans to begin with a reference to the presentation she made to the entire county board in July. She said she will emphasize the difference in the percentage of funding that comes from the municipalities vs. the county's funding: 32% of the county libraries' users are Columbia County residents, but only 18% of the county libraries' funding comes from Columbia County. In addition, she will refer to the value of the SCLS Delivery Service that links all of the county libraries, and explain that it is a fiscally efficient method to expand the resources the libraries can offer with the expenditure of additional funds.

South Central Library System Report:

Shawn Brommer encouraged the Board members to attend the Annual Wisconsin Library Association conference at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells on October 18-20. She said that Jean Anderson, a member of the SCLS staff, is the current president of the W.L.A., and that the SCLS libraries as well as the Columbia County libraries were well-represented in the scheduled presentations. When asked about the status of the Public Library System Redesign Project, she replied that the 'data gathering' phase was slated to end in early 2018, but that would be when the hard work really begins, as programs are developed to meet the needs revealed by the data-gathering project. The goal of this project continues to be to assure that all State libraries are able to provide equal of library services.

SCLS is also trying to help Pardeeville and Wyocena in their recruitment efforts for a new library director. Both positions are part time with few, if any employee benefits, and as such, the positions are extremely difficult to fill. A discussion ensued about possible recruiting tools that could be used. It was discovered that neither vacancy was listed on either municipalities' website or the libraries' websites. At a Pardeeville Library Board meeting that Susanna Bradley attended, the possibility of the two libraries sharing a director was discussed. Jessica Bergin pointed out that if one person held both positions, he or she would be reporting to at least 5 different committees. The number of meetings that would entail would negate any time left over to act as the libraries' director!

Reports on Library Visits:

Susanna Bradley, as noted above, attended a Pardeeville Library Board meeting, the major topic at which was the need to recruit a new director. She said that she would share some of the suggestions made by this Board with Pardeeville library leadership, and Betty Reiter will do the same since she lives in Pardeeville and has been very active in the library's leadership.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the CCLSB is scheduled for November 17 at the Lodi Women's Club Library. President Hughes reminded the board of its snow policy: "If schools are closed in the municipality in which we are scheduled to meet, the meeting will be postponed by one week."

Adjournment:

There being no further business, President Hughes adjourned the meeting at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Martin, Secretary

9/15/2017

