

Columbia County Library System Board
September 16, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Portage Public Library
Portage, Wisconsin

Board Members in Attendance:

Susanna Bradley
Dianne Effinger
Judy Eulberg
Nan Hughes
Susan Martin
Margaret Vaughan

Board Member Excused with Prior Notice:

Nancy Long

Library Directors in Attendance:

Jessica Bergin – Portage Public Library/Resource Librarian

Also in Attendance SCLS Representative:

Rose Zeich - Web Services Consultant

The meeting was properly noticed by e-mail and by publication in the Portage Daily Register.

Board president Judith Eulberg called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Susanna Bradley moved that the agenda be approved, and Nan Hughes seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the May 20, 2016 Meeting:

Margaret Vaughan moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Susanna Bradley seconded the motion; it was approved without dissent.

2017 Columbia County Library System Budget:

Jessica Bergin presented the budget that she will review with the County's Finance Committee on September 30th. The highlights:

- Operating Expenses remain at \$50.
- County Library Support increases minimally, based on increased circulation; the calculation of this expenditure is formula driven.
- The allocation for the Resource Library remains at \$9,000. The bulk of this funds the Tutor.com program available to all libraries in the county.
- Cross Border Payments increased at just over 5%, which indicates that efforts to encourage using 'home town' libraries are paying off
- The total budget is increasing by only 4% over prior year.

A general discussion followed, with an explanation of the formula used to determine the County Library Support the crux of the conversation. Margaret Vaughan suggested that informal questionnaires would enhance the various statistical measures which are used to determine the so-called 'effectiveness' of each library. Library patrons would be asked to voluntarily complete a simple anonymous form that would explain the patron's reason for visiting the library (simple check marks: children's story time, adult program, book discussion, team program, etc.) Other questions could also be included to compile data pertinent to the impact that the facility has on the community.

As an off-shoot of the budget conversation, the group questioned the goal of this County Library System Board. It was generally agreed that the Board's responsibility is to ensure that each library in the system is provided with the services and resources it needs to meet its overall goals.

It was suggested that tools need to be found and made available to help the public and organizations within the community understand the budgeting process and the expense involved in providing the services expected of a library.

Susan Martin moved that the budget as presented be accepted by the Board and sent to the County Finance Committee. Margaret Vaughan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resource Librarian's Report:

Jessica Begin reported that her recent activities have focused on preparing both the County Library Systems budget and Portage Library's budget for the city. In addition, she negotiated a new contract with Tutor.com, and at a lower cost per session. At the August County Library Directors' meeting, it was suggested that a series of five-minute on-line training sessions be developed by SCLS for library trustees. This would replace the huge volume of paper materials available to trustees now.

South Central Library System Report:

Rose Zeich reported that SCLS is deeply involved in the WLA's Public Library Redesign Project, which is exploring the ways in which equitable library services can be delivered to all state residents, regardless of their geographical location. Service models and service goals are being developed, along with suggestions on how to meet those goals. Preliminary results will be shared at the Wisconsin Library Association Conference in October.

After listening to the group's discussion regarding library funding and the public's understanding of it, Rose was excited to report that SCLS is sponsoring a Fund Raising Workshop at Olbrich Gardens in Madison on October 13.

Dane County Libraries are piloting the Library Transforming Campaign tool kit. The Columbus Library, a member of the Columbia County Library System, has been involved with this project for several years. As a result, the Columbus library and community organizations are working together on many fronts.

Rose also said that some libraries are ramping up efforts to digitize historical collections. She reminded the Board that Recollection Wisconsin.org is the portal to Wisconsin cultural heritage information. The Digital Public Library of America can be found on-line at DP.LA (Yes, I checked – that works!)

Library Visits:

Dianne Effinger attended a recent Columbus Library Board meeting. She said she was impressed by the beautiful art work throughout the building, The library's 2017 System Plan is bring completed, and the library is working with the city to resolve an access problem that will be caused by a road construction problem next summer. Dianne was also impressed by the involvement of the Board with the library and the city.

Judy Eulberg attended a Board meeting at the Lodi Women's Club Library. She reported on the slide show the library has prepared that focuses on the library's revenue sources; it will be shared with area service clubs..

Columbia County Library Advocate of the Year :

Mary Lou Sharpee, the 2016 County Library Advocate of the year, has been named a 2016 Cornerstone Award winner by the South Central Library System.

Next Columbia County Library System Meeting:

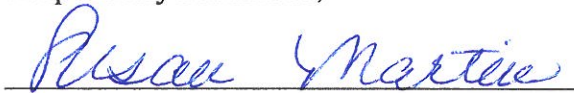
Friday, November 18 at the Rio Library. (9:00 a.m.)

In the meantime, President Eulberg will talk with Peggy Potter, the Randolph Library Director about that library's role in hosting future County Library System Board meetings.

Adjournment:

President Eulberg adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Martin, Secretary

9/17/2016

