

Columbia County Library System Board
November 17, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Lodi Woman's Club Library
Lodi, Wisconsin

Board Members in Attendance:

Susanna Bradley
Dianne Effinger
Nan Hughes
Nancy Long
Susan Martin
Betty Reiter

Library Directors in Attendance:

Jessica Bergin – Portage Public Library /County Resource Librarian
Kristine Millard – Lodi Woman's Club Library Co-Director

Visitors and Guests in Attendance:

Lorraine Cline – Lodi Woman's club Library Board Member
Rose Holerud – Lodi Woman's Club Library Board President

Board President Nan Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes of the September 15, 2017 Meeting:

Nancy Long moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Upon Dianne Effinger's second, the motion was approved without dissent.

County Library Budget and Advocacy Initiatives:

Ms. Bergin reported that the County Library Budget for 2018 was set at 74.6% vs. the requested 85%, meaning that the Portage Library, alone, will receive \$12,000 less from the county than in 2017; the city was not able to increase its funding for the library. Kristine Millard reported that the Lodi library would be receiving \$6000 less from the county, but the funding from the city was remaining stable. Ms. Bergin noted that every county budget was reduced from the requested amounts because the budget requests exceeded the available funding. In addition, she explained that the county levy limit was at its maximum, and it was fiscally irresponsible to keep borrowing from reserves, and the impact that a significant reduction in reserves would have on the county's bond rating. Ms. Bergin and the other county library directors will explore ways to explain to the public how libraries are funded. Part of the tax bill in towns and villages that do not have libraries do include a library tax, which is minimal; some of those communities do make additional, non-mandated contributions to some of the libraries. County Board members Susanna Bradley and Nancy Long explained the county budgeting process and its fiscal limitations.

That lead to a discussion on how libraries will attempt to fill the gaps left by the decrease in funding. Ms. Bergin said that the Portage Library has elected to delay the purchase of new computers which will certainly be noticed by the public using the library's old, slow PCs. While other changes might be less obvious, the Portage staff decided that it was important for its patrons to become aware of the challenges libraries face when it comes to funding its full menu of services.

Columbia County Library System Board Vacancy:

As the County Resource Librarian, Ms. Bergin is still trying to recruit individuals to fill the two openings on the CCLSB. She hopes to receive some names with the next week or so, and she is trying to encourage participation from representatives of the Poynette and or Rio libraries. If she receives information about individuals willing to serve, she will inform the current Board member by e-mail to conduct an on-line vote so that the names can be submitted to the County Board for its approval as soon as possible.

Update on the Status of IMLS Budgeting:

There has been no new activity on this topic,

Resource Library Report:

Mrs. Bergin's report was woven into several separate agenda topics. Since no one from SCLS was able to attend the meeting, she also incorporated information about that entity in her report.

In addition to reporting on the results of the County Budget meeting with the county's Finance Committee, she presented the revised Action Plan for 2018. She noted that the Plan had been reviewed by the County Library Directors at its meeting the prior week.

At that Directors' meeting, the group also discussed the need for additional training in the area of emergency preparedness. In March, the Portage Library will host a workshop on De-escalation Techniques. As a part of this discussion, Nancy Long reminded the Board of Shawn Brommer's (SCLS) presentation on the changing mission of libraries as they service a changing clientele, exacerbating the social issues facing libraries today.

The Public Library Redesign Program is on schedule, and reports should be released in the spring, and then feedback will be solicited from the libraries.

Ms. Bergin mentioned that the South Central Library System is exploring potential changes to the Integrated Library System (ILS: the 'old' card catalog) currently in place. Personally, she is not in favor of making a change at this time, feeling that any changes should be made a part of the Library Redesign Project. The decision will be based on a vote of the library directors in the SCLS.

Libraries in the System have been given the opportunity to sign up with SCLS for training and support to begin digitization projects.

She reported that Jennifer Tallman, the part time library director in Cambria, will also take over as the part time library director in Wyocena. However, the Pardeeville Library is still without a director.

She reminded the Board that the Annual Library Legislative Day will be held on February 20 in Madison; she encouraged the Board members to attend the session.

Nan Hughes informed the Board that the Department of Public Instruction has been working for some time to form a Digital Library/Overdrive Consortium, available to public schools. School districts are currently subscribing to the Consortium, and it will be available on January 1.

Reports on Library Visits:

Nancy Long visited the Rio Library and attended its Board meeting. She said that the library was exploring the possibility of providing a bicycle repair station. Rio has a very active tutoring program, and the library is strongly supported by its Board and the population it serves. Nancy also reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Columbia County Economic Development Committee, (CCEDC) because the Tourism Committee is a part of this organization, and she suggested that the Tourism Committee partner with libraries on the many bicycle events held each year in the county.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the CCLSB is scheduled for January 19 at the Pardeeville Library. Ms. Bergin will make sure that Pardeeville is able to host the meeting and will inform the Board if there is a change in location. 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 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Martin, Secretary

11/18/2017

