

COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lodi Women's Club Public Library
Lodi, Wisconsin

May 6, 2011

Board Members Present: Judy Eulberg, Gisela Hamm, Nan Hughes, Susan Martin, Andy Ross, Patricia Westby and Carol Ziehmke.

South Central Library System Representative(s): Not in attendance

Library Directors Present: Shannon Schultz - Portage

Guest: Dolores Hausmann – Poynette Library Board

Trish Priewe, co-director of the Lodi Women's Club Public Library, greeted the Board and gave it an up-date of the numerous activities going on in that library, including an extensive 'green space project.'

Board President Carol Ziehmke called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed, and all of the Board members were present.

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda, and it was unanimously approved upon the motion of Judy Eulberg and Pat Westby's second.

Minutes: After the secretary outlined the revisions made to the draft minutes, Andy Ross moved that the minutes of the March 4, 2011 meeting be approved as revised; second by Gisela Hamm. The Board unanimously approved the minutes as revised.

Library Advocate of the Year (2011): The Poynette Library has not yet set a date to Honor the 2011 Library Advocate of the Year. A press release has been prepared and a photo of the recipient is available; once the date of the award ceremony is established the publicity will be sent to area newspapers.

Annual Report to the County Board: Shannon Schultz plans to present the annual report at the Board's May meeting. There is a possibility that she will not be able to attend because she may be out of town tending to a family situation. Andy Ross and Susan Martin agreed to answer any questions that might arise.

Resource Librarian's Report: Shannon Schultz reported that the libraries in the South Central Library System have migrated to the new software system (KOHA). She said that the physical migration went pretty well, but that there had been some 'ups and downs' as the staff adjusted to the new system. The biggest challenge to the users appears to be the 'Search' function which is not as user-friendly as the old system was, but she explained that would be adjusted in the future to better refine the results of searches. Shannon did an excellent job of explaining that the new system is an 'open source' system, rather than a proprietary one, which means that the SCLS system was tailored to meet the System's specific needs, and would continue to be modified. Nan

Hughes reported that she had worked with the fourth and fifth graders in her school to introduce them to the new system, and that they liked it and that it is ‘kid friendly.’

Shannon also reported on the recent activity regarding the State budget and its impact on libraries. Funding for Badger Link has been restored, but the Maintenance of Effort clause has been eliminated.

In her role as the Portage Library Director, Shannon makes regular reports to the city’s Common Council. Her last report was on the Return on Investment made by libraries to the community, and her next one will discuss the importance of free access to information.

Gisela Hamm announced that the Kilbourn Public Library is closed as its staff makes the move to its newly completed addition. She explained its warm, inviting atmosphere, and that the architects and construction firm did an excellent job in ensuring that the addition blended seamlessly with the original building. The Board will be invited to attend an Open House at the library, probably sometime in June.

That was followed by a brief discussion about the SCLS proposal to award its staff temporary increases of 5.8% to cover their contributions to the WRS if required in 2011.

South Central Library System Report: There was no SCLS report since Cheryl Becker was attending the WPLA conference.

Library Visits: Nan Hughes visited both the Portage and Columbus libraries. She said that the Columbus library is working on an expansion feasibility study, and on meeting the diverse needs of the community. Nan was impressed with the long and interesting history of the Columbus Library. In Portage, she learned more about the library’s plans for renovation/expansion, and the work that the Director is doing on defining the role of the library in the community. She noted that she felt the atmosphere in the library was warm and welcoming, and that it seemed like a good source of information for new residents of the area. Nan also shared copies of the Fast Facts put together by the Columbus Library

Pat Westby visited the Lodi Library, and reported that the number of programs offered by the library continues to grow. She also quoted the former Director of the Lodi Library, Peg Hilliker, who said that libraries were a “place of refuge and thinking.” Pat feels that is an apt description of the Lodi Library.

Carol Ziehmke visited the Kilbourn Public Library in the Dells to see how the library uses ‘Skype.’ At that time, she was given a tour of the library addition and was most impressed with it.

Communications with Public Officials: The group debated whether the Board should contact local, county and state officials to emphasize the importance of community libraries and the role they play in ensuring the public’s access to information. It was agreed that libraries need to step up and advocate for themselves, and to concentrate their efforts on local officials. It was suggested that libraries combine their programs with activities that local service organizations sponsor in their communities to enhance their

exposure. It was also mentioned that libraries should explore ways in which they can reach out to surrounding areas that use their facilities.

Other Items of Interest:

Nan Hughes reported on her attendance at the Legislative Day in Madison. She said there was an excellent discussion on the need to advocate the value of libraries and what they mean to the communities they serve, as well as to identify priorities for the future. She was in a group that met with Keith Ripp and Mark Miller, both of whom seemed to indicate that they agreed with the need to support families and the children of the community, since they are our future leaders.

Dolores Hausmann, of the Poynette Library Board, reported that Poynette Library Director Kris Daugherty visited all of the surrounding municipalities to discuss the library's services and resources with town and village officials.

Next Meeting: July 8, 2011 at the Pardeeville Public Library, where Alyssa Cleland is the new director. For your information, her e-mail address is: acleland@scls.lib.wi.us (Since first Friday in July is the beginning of a holiday weekend, it was decided to postpone the meeting a week.)

President Ziehmke adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Martin, Secretary