

Washington County Library Board
Regular Meeting at Washington County Library Administrative Offices
Woodbury, MN
May 23, 2011

Present

Board: Bull, Meyer, Nickerson, Sievert, Weik
Lehrke

Staff: Conley, Schneider

1. Call to Order

Bull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Recognition of Public

Erik Sandin, reporter for the Stillwater Gazette was present.

3. Adoption of Agenda/Consent Calendar Approval

Adoption of the Agenda – Weik moved and Sievert seconded the adoption of the agenda. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Adoption of Minutes – Sievert moved adoption of the minutes with one correction removing Post from the list of Board members present at the April meeting. Nickerson seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed. Sievert moved acceptance of the donations. Nickerson seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

4. Unfinished and New Business

A. Marine Library Branch Service Proposal – Conley updated the Board on discussions with Marine regarding the library branch located in Marine on St. Croix and possible changes with services. She noted that a citizens' group has formed that is discussing a variety of ways to maintain a community gathering place and has drafted a proposal to bring their ideas together. The draft of their proposal is in the board information distributed. They are sharing their proposal with the city council and the county. Depending on how things come together it could involve some type of joint powers agreement with the city and county in the event there is public funding or obligations. Meanwhile a report on the historic city hall building is expected at the end of June which may influence what can be done with respects to the building where the present library is currently located. Conley said the next steps will likely be further meetings with the local group and the city.

B. Newport Library Branch Update – Conley reported she had met with local Newport officials and to discuss the branch library. Board member Japs is also involved with the discussions in Newport. One of the key uses of the library there is the access to computers and the wireless network. She referred the Board to the digital library draft outline that was in the board packet. Asked about Lake Elmo, Conley indicated there have been several conversations with local officials and a local decision probably needs to be made before anything else occurs. With Lakeland no formal discussions have taken place regarding the Valley library branch outside of some contact with the mayor of Lakeland, Brian Zeller.

- C. Branch Operations – Service Levels, Performance Measures – Conley reviewed with the Board some of the highlights in the Library’s 2010 performance measures. The Library had over 2.1 million loans in 2010 and Stafford was the most visited along with loaning the most items. Stafford is also the sixth most visited library in the state. A growing number of reference transactions are instructional. Volunteer hours have climbed significantly and more than 8900 volunteer hours were donated in 2010.

5. Director’s Report

- A. Legislative Update – Conley reported it is likely there will be an impasse on the state budget and a possible state government shutdown at the end of June. Interlibrary loan and delivery may be impacted.
- B. Budget Update – It is expected funding for 2012 will remain flat or there will be further reductions.
- C. Service Interruptions due to New Automated Library System - The new integrated library system launch is May 26. Meanwhile the Library is operating in an offline mode since the migration is to an entirely different platform as well as to remote servers and support. This was the recommended choice given the Library would have needed to replace servers, operating software was out-of-date and no longer allowed for further upgrades and reduced staffing could not meet all the technical support needs. Announcements have been sent out regarding the changeover so customers were aware that they might want to check out extra materials in advance of the downtime.

6. Board Reports

- A. Board President’s report – Bull commented on how nice the recent volunteer recognition reception was and that she enjoyed meeting one of the reading dogs.
- B. Board members’ reports – Weik briefed members on the “books for treats” program. It should be added to the next agenda. It was also suggested that a narrative be added to the board packet similar to the other branch narratives for the Hugo express services.

7. Adjournment

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Sievert moved and Weik seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2011, at 6:30 p. m. at the Library Administrative Offices.