

Bridges Library System Board Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017

PRESENT: Dick Nawrocki, Larry Nelson, Howard Pringle, Linda Ager, Jim Heinrich, Marion Onesti, Betty Scanlon, Rose Sura, Jean Yeomans, John Rhiel

ABSENT: Dwayne Morris

EX OFFICIO: Connie Meyer, Library System Director, John Klima, Interim Director Waukesha Public Library, Resource Library Representative, Kathy Klager, Director Pauline Haass Public Library (Sussex) and APL Representative and Gerard Saylor, Director L.D. Fargo Public Library (Lake Mills)

OTHERS: Meg Henke, Library System Administrative Specialist

Dick Nawrocki, the Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Pauline Haass Public Library.

Comments for the Public: There were no comments from the public.

Correspondence: Letters were distributed related to the PLSR project, one from APL and one from the Jefferson County Library Board. Connie will speak to them in detail during her Director's report.

Meeting Minutes: An Onesti/Scanlon motion to approve the minutes as submitted for the March 2017 meeting passed unanimously.

ACTION ON THE BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills Report: A Pringle/Sura motion to approve the monthly invoices as submitted for April 2017 passed unanimously.

Financial Report: A Heinrich/ Pringle motion to accept the month end financial report as submitted for March 2017 passed unanimously.

REPORTS

APL Representative's Report: Kathy Klager welcomed the Board to the Pauline Haass Public Library. The library has a strong commitment to early literacy, which includes a STEAM lab. They have 14 circulating hotspots. Klager reported that the APL group created a letter including bullet points to establish a benchmark of valued library system services for the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) Steering Committee's review and consideration. The letter was sent to John Thompson, PLSR Chairman. Additionally APL has reviewed and updated its bylaws. APL

wishes to acknowledge and thank the Bridges Library Board members for their letter to the PLSR steering committee and for their attendance at the joint finance committee meeting at State Fair Park. Following the most recent APL meeting, several members attended the PLSR Human Resources (HR) Committee meeting immediately following the monthly APL meeting.

Resource Library Report: John Klima reported that the Waukesha Public Library has an open Librarian I position and he is hoping to fill that position next week for the adult services area. The library's HR Committee is meeting on April 19th to review executive search firm proposals in response to the library's Request for Proposal (RFP) and report their recommendation at the April 20th regular library board meeting.

Bridges Staff Report: Meg Henke reported the Envisionware e-commerce implementation is in process. The fiber connection between Bridges, Waukesha County and Waukesha City is live. The library system office is seeing a great improvement since the cut over. Next Bridges will look to install Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones for the office sometime in the month of May.

Bridges Director's Report: Connie Meyer stated that the Waukesha County Library Plan has consumed the better part of the last six weeks of her time. The 17-member committee has been working since August of 2016 to develop a plan to bring forward to the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors. She has reached out to the County to see if the standards need to go to the Board as a part of the plan approval or as a separate process. A letter is being drafted to be sent to local library boards to vote on the proposed standards at their May or June meetings. If the new standards are not approved by 50% of the libraries representing 80% of the population represented by libraries, then the existing standards will remain in place. Waukesha County is one of the few counties that has library standards in the state of Wisconsin. The standards are being presented as minimums to exempt rather aspirational in nature.

Connie went on to say she is working on coordinating people to speak at the joint finance committee's public hearings to ensure that there is library presence at all the meetings across the state. She is hopeful for legislative support of our request for a modest increase of \$1.5 million in library system aid. Library System aid was cut 10% in 2011 and has been held at that level ever since--making it increasingly difficult for library systems to effectively meet the needs of the libraries. The message presented at these meetings was intended to illustrate library commitment to and value added in the areas of workforce development, internet access, and life-long learning.

The PLSR project is well underway and Connie reported she has been participating in the Chapter 43 (statute) workgroup. Both the Jefferson County Library Board and APL sent feedback letters to John Thompson, Chair of the PLSR Steering Committee (distributed). Connie reported that the discussion at the recent PLSR Steering Committee meeting was fairly negative regarding the input from our area. She indicated that the letters were written to provide the steering committee feedback during the decision making process and this seemed an

appropriate time to offer input. Connie reported that a letter from the library system director in Southwest Wisconsin Library System was also shared at the steering committee meeting. The issue raised in that letter was related to funding; the director voiced concern about her system's difficulty providing quality services with such limited funding. The steering committee is currently discussing various models for library system structure including replacing the existing regional governance model with one of centralized control with 'field offices'. Connie commented that the PLSR project is not on the legislative radar at this time and that, in her opinion, any proposed changes would require consensus from the library community to be successfully implemented. Connie reported that she is hopeful that other library systems will provide feedback at this time so the steering committee has a full picture of the current state of Wisconsin library systems.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Approve Northern Waters Intersystem Agreement: Connie Meyer stated that the Northern Waters Library System is located in the northern part of the state in Ashland, WI. They would like to have an agreement in place with Bridges. There is no financial impact, as we do not have any significant cross traffic circulation.

A Pringle/Sura motion to approve the Northern Waters Intersystem Agreement as submitted passed unanimously.

Waukesha County County Library Plan 2017-2021 update: Connie Meyer gave a brief update on the new plan. The highlights are as follows: new standards, if vetoed, will revert to current standards; a code change is needed to address library system reserve fund language; no collection funding formula change; distribution formula change to using interlibrary loan item circulation instead of transit data; the recommendation of a fund for offering incentives for libraries to do projects that will offer a savings over time. Connie is developing documentation for the ordinance for Waukesha County to adopt the plan and the new standards. It was suggested by Jim Heinrich and Larry Nelson that the libraries vote on the standards prior to bringing them to the County Board for a vote.

Howard Pringle motioned to endorse the Waukesha County Library Plan 2017-2021. The motion seconded by Jean Yeomans and further carried unanimously.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Hartland Public Library.**

At 7:39 p.m. a Scanlon/Yeomans motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:

Meg Henke
Administrative Specialist

Respectfully Submitted:

John Rhiel
Board Secretary