

Waukesha County Library Planning Committee (Act 150 Committee)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 19, 2021

Committee members present: Jim Batzko, Dave DeAngelis, Betsy Felix, Joel Gaughan, Bruce Gay, Laura Gest, Adele Loria, Robyn Ludtke, Dale Noll, Howard Pringle, Edell Schaefer, Nancy Wilhelm,

Committee members absent: Stephanie Ramirez

Others present: Karol Kennedy (Bridges Library System Director), Mellanie Mercier (Bridges Library System Automation Coordinator/Assistant Director), Paul Decker (Waukesha County Board of Supervisors Chairman), Alex Klosterman (Waukesha County Senior Budget Analyst), Nan Champe (Pewaukee Public Library Director), Alli Chase (Alice Baker Memorial Library Director)

The meeting was called to order at Pewaukee Public Library at 4:02 p.m.

Introductions were made and Waukesha County Board Chair, Paul Decker, appointed Dave DeAngelis as chair of this committee and Adele Loria as co-chair.

Waukesha County Board Chair, Paul Decker, welcomed the committee and discussed strategic issues the county was facing, including digital literacy and the growing population of residents age 65 and up. The committee was charged with the task to evaluate what has happened in libraries in the last 5 years and what libraries need to do to engage and best serve residents in the next 5 years.

Karol Kennedy led a discussion about what is required and desired in the county library plan. The statutory requirements included on p. 8 of the current plan were reviewed. The plan has historically been reviewed and updated every 3-5 years. The previous planning process resulted in significant changes as this was the first county plan as a multi-county system. Kennedy also provided a handout outlining the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) implementation priorities. The PLSR project was still in process when the current plan was developed and there was uncertainty about what the recommendations might mean for library systems in the state. The Department of Public Instruction staff are now working in partnership with system staff and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations.

A discussion was held about services libraries are providing currently, incorporating lessons learned during the COVID pandemic, changes and challenges of library service, and expectations for the coming years. Discussion topics included:

- Relationship and policies related to Milwaukee County
- Economic Development: What can libraries do to help attract more young families to the county?
- Digital content delivery and accessibility and changes in desirable material formats

- Expansion of wireless access
- Importance of leisure and social connections
- Curbside and alternative delivery services
- Increased outreach
- Demand for shared work and meeting spaces
- Virtual and in person programming and meetings and the need of technology to support
- Ability to provide desired content and reduce wait times.

Significant work was done on the minimum to exempt standards in 2016. These will need to be reviewed, especially in consideration of the pandemic effects of the past year. The discussion also included how we measure usage and the interest in incorporating digital usage in the evaluation of service and possibly in the funding formula.

It was also noted that while this plan effects all libraries, it is not a plan for each library. Each library has a library board responsible for local library planning.

It was decided that at the next meeting the committee would review the mission and vision, core values and the Excellence section of the plan.

It was agreed that Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM was a good time for meetings. Meetings were set for Monday, August 9, and Monday, August 30, and will likely continue every three weeks until the planning process is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25, Edell Schaefer motioned, Nancy Wilhelm seconded.

Mellanie Mercier, Recorder