

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jan. 13, 1998

Purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the committee is to study local library service, the options, the needs and the funding.

The Iowa County Library Planning Committee met at the Dodgeville Public Library on Jan. 13, 1998 at 6:30 P.M.

Chairperson Valerie Foley called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Committee members present were Peggy Daentl, Victoria Kolb, Earlene O'Keefe, Barbara Polizzi, Diane Sterba, LaVerne Draves, Mary Lou Fry, Krista Ross and Valerie Foley. Absent were Therese McCarragher, Lois Menninga, and Caroline Hendrickson. Caroline Hendrickson moved away and has resigned. JoDon Anderson and Walter Burkhalter from the Southwest Wisconsin Library System were also present.

Valerie Foley asked for a motion for certification of an open meeting. Mary Lou Fry made the motion and Victoria Kolb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Valerie asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mary Lou Fry made the motion and Krista Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried. Valerie asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mary Lou Fry made the motion to approve the minutes and Victoria Kolb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item #6. Outreach Services

Valerie Foley introduced the topic by explaining that Lois Menninga and she had attended a System Board meeting on Dec. 10, 1997, and a meeting on Dec. 16th of the Iowa County Board of Supervisors. She explained since then that complications had arisen in regard to the proposed idea of allowing reading rooms in several Iowa County Communities. These communities lost the bookmobile service as a result of the service being discontinued due to some counties being unwilling to support it and Iowa and Crawford counties inability to fund the bookmobile by themselves. Valerie had invited Walter Burkhalter and JoDon Anderson to explain what had happened. Diane Sterba interjected that she wanted to hear first a clarification of what had happened. She stated she knew there was a contract between Iowa County and the System in regard to what library services the System would agree to supply for Iowa County's funding of these services. But she wanted more of an explanation of why the reading room proposal which seemed like a logical option for library service to rural people who would not receive bookmobile service any more changed and what new information surfaced which changed this proposal to not be a valid or viable option for rural library service after all.

Walter Burkhalter explained that essentially what happened was that the idea of "reading rooms" was presented by the former administrator of the Southwest System, James Wroblewski, without any specific details as to how it would be funded etc. Also for 16 years the agreement between the counties and the Southwest System had not been changed and outreach services met "bookmobile" to the counties who funded outreach library services to rural people. Walter explained that the agreement had gotten to the point whereby the Southwest System is being put in the position of acting like a department of the county board (the Southwest System states what it needs to perform services to county people and the Board agrees or disagrees to support this budget.) Also other counties have not kept up with the services they need to provide and the System has cut bookmobile stops as a response to lower county funding when possibly the System should respond in other ways. Walter expressed the idea that he felt that new agreements should be developed between Iowa County and the Southwest System since the old agreement no longer applies because of the demise of bookmobile service to County people as well as additional changes in library services which have come about with the passage of time. Furthermore, it must be stressed that Iowa County's responsibility is to serve its citizens who do not have a library with library service. It is not the responsibility of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System. It only becomes a shared responsibility when agreements are drawn up between the County and the Southwest System. It was Walter's opinion that there is a need for new contracts to be drawn up between the

County and the Southwest System whereby the services are defined and the costs are listed. Diane Sterba and Barbara Polizzi felt there was a need to redefine contracts between the Southwest System and Iowa County.

Several opinions were expressed, especially by the four Iowa County librarians, as to some obstacles they foresaw in serving these reading rooms adequately and to whom or where did the responsibility lie for returning borrowed interlibrary loan material if it went to these sites to be picked up by the requesting patron. Walter Burkhalter reported that the State did not recognize interlibrary loan to be carried out by reading rooms. Interlibrary loan to the State means a valid library on one end and a valid library on the other end.

JoDon Anderson explained to the committee that because some counties cut back funding on county library services, bookmobile stops were cut in those counties. As a result circulation dropped. Total circulation was divided by the cost of operating the bookmobile. The cost per circulation rose. The County didn't want to pay the high circulation cost. Different services should have been cut instead of bookmobile stops. Cutting bookmobile stops affected all counties and services and hurt every county. Diane Sterba asked Walter what he felt should be happening.

Walter Burkhalter replied that everyone needs to become aware of the relationship that exists not just between the System and the counties but also the counties and their member libraries and the people outside the municipalities of member libraries. It is the county who is mandated to serve people who live outside the member library communities. It is up to the county to provide library service. Counties contract with the System if the counties choose the Systems to provide library service but they don't have to choose the System. They can contract with the System, a library within their county or outside the System or take the money available and give it to libraries within their counties and the libraries perform outreach services for a certain amount of money. The state says this is the law. The System's relationship with the counties is contractual. The System is providing library services for a certain amount of money. System membership says the County agrees to be a member of the library system and agrees to abide by the laws of Chapter 43. At this time Walter presented estimated costs for 3 Iowa County communities proposed deposit collection idea. These costs were based on amounts currently available from Iowa County for outreach services. The committee questioned JoDon's and Walter's knowledge of the details of costs per site, supplies, how collections would be stored, rotated etc. Each answer the committee deemed accurate considering how the figures were as close an estimate as could be.

The committee listened to ^{how} some counties decided to discontinue bookmobile and bookmobile service.

After much discussion, it was suggested that public librarians should meet and determine alternative methods of outreach service for rural people. This would be in addition to the 3 deposit proposed sites previously suggested. Possibly county committees or board members will be informed if asked by the System that Iowa County is moving on outreach service alternatives and outreach money provided by the county will be used to fund some of the services if these proposed services are found and approved to be viable, lawful alternatives to serve county residents outside municipal library communities.

Item #7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 30th, 1998 at 10A.M. at the Barneveld Public Library

Item #8. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Mary Lou Fry and seconded by Krista Ross. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:35 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Earlene O'Keefe.

Secretary,
Earlene M. O'Keefe

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