

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 30, 1999

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 March 30, 1999 at 10 A.M.

Chairperson Krista Ross called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. Committee members present were Peggy Daentl, Valerie Foley, Lois Menninga, Earlene O'Keefe, Barbara Polizzi, Pat Skogen, Victoria Kolb, and Krista Ross. Mary Lou Fry, Robert Daentl, Diane Sterba, and Therese McCarragher were absent.

Krista Ross asked for a motion for certification of an open meeting. Motion was made by Valerie Foley and seconded by Victoria Kolb. Motion carried. Approval of agenda motion was made by Pat Skogen and seconded by Barbara Polizzi. Motion carried. Approval of the minutes motion was made by Pat Skogen and seconded by Valerie Foley. Motion carried.

Item #6. Iowa County Library Plan

Krista Ross began the discussion by stating that under the new library law (Act 150) that old county library plans are no longer valid and the Department of Public Instruction requires new county library plans to be in place by the end of Dec. 1999. The purpose of rewriting county library plans would be to clarify how counties are going to implement Act 150. Barbara and Krista had photocopied the Lafayette County Library Planning Document and downloaded the Department of Public Instructions sample county library plan from the state's web site and distributed these copies to the committee. Krista explained that the Lafayette County Library Plan was a "bare bones" example of a plan and perhaps it might need to be fleshed out but the state would accept it for now. Lafayette County is still working on their plan. Barbara Polizzi as co-chair, stated that in her opinion the State needs to know unique characteristics of Iowa County Wisconsin. For example, the fact that Iowa County is in an unglaciated rural area of Southwest Wisconsin with many villages and only a few cities. She thought at best that people reading the plan should get a snapshot of what Iowa County is really like and this should be reflected in the written plan. Pat Skogen inquired if this was a plan to be filed for state funding. Barbara Polizzi replied that this was for county funding and speculated that this committee might be the one to decide where county funding for Iowa County libraries would go--whether funds would come to the individual libraries who would in turn contract for library services from the Southwest Library System or whether the funding would go to the System at Fennimore and then SWLS would take needed funding and distribute the rest to individual libraries of Southwest Wisconsin. Barbara stated she felt libraries within the county contracting for services with the Southwest System may be the preferred way to go. Pat Skogen inquired as to what happened when Walter Burkhalter met with the Iowa County Board in October of 1998. Barbara Polizzi answered her by stating that after this meeting the remaining amount for funding SWLS was sent to the System.

Krista Ross continued further discussion on the requirements of the sample plan. She thought the plan would probably require statistics to be pulled from library records. A major point she emphasized was that the county library plan had to include a provision as to how Iowa County would reimburse the 4 libraries in the county for direct library circulation to people from the county living outside the municipality which has a library and also a provision for how other libraries outside Iowa County, but within Southwest System, would be reimbursed if a resident from Iowa County walked into a library within the Southwest System (for example, Boscobel Library) and obtained library material through direct circulation. This reimbursement has to be a reasonable amount. Interlibrary loan circulation is excluded from reimbursement from the counties under this new law. It means only direct circulation---a resident receiving library services from a library as a person who walks into a library. Libraries within the Southwest Library System would probably determine a standard consistent amount per circulation

for reimbursement for other County residents outside of their home counties who use their library services by direct circulation. Krista also told the committee there might be provisions where we can set standards for library cooperation between the county libraries but they must be "reasonable" standards. Minimum standards cannot be set so high that no library could reach those standards. They have to be reasonable and within a library's capacity to reach the minimum standard.

Barbara Polizzi began by reading a preliminary mission statement that was similar to the DPI sample statement. She asked for opinions on it. After much discussion of what the word "access" implied, quality library services, and who were defined as actually Iowa County residents, the mission statement of the plan was determined and is as follows:

- I. To make quality library services available to all Iowa County residents and to provide equitable funding for that service.

The committee continued developing a draft of the plan by working on a brief demographic description of Iowa County. Several committee members contributed to the discussion on Iowa County's demographics. Generally the committee wanted an emphasis put on the word "rural" when describing Iowa County and also how most of Iowa County was comprised of small villages, two cities, and fourteen townships. Also the committee agreed to state in point A under the introduction that the Iowa County Library Planning Committee was established under Section 43.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

In Point B under Introduction, the plan described the establishment of the four municipal public libraries in Iowa County as well as population figures of these municipalities, the establishment and development of five Southwest Wisconsin counties into what eventually became known as the Southwest Wisconsin Library System, and the establishment and required composition in membership of the Iowa County Library Planning Committee. In summary Point B described the history of library development and planning in the county.

Point C under Introduction described Iowa County's membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Library System. It stated that System Board representation was allocated on the basis of population. A minimum of three county residents were appointed by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors to serve on the System Board. One of these appointees had to be a county board supervisor. Valerie Foley as a member of the SWLS Board provided Barbara Polizzi, co-chair, with the information about the establishment of the System Board and the requirements for allocating membership on the Board.

After Point C the committee looked ahead to "current library services to county residents" and it was the consensus of the committee that perhaps Walter Burkhalter as System Administrator could assist librarians with a specific inventory of current library services provided by county funding should they have any inquiries. Committee co-chair Barbara Polizzi and Krista Ross suggested that the librarians on the committee needed to look at their annual reports for information for the plan and some of the remaining information in the plan would need to be provided by the librarians. It was decided that the planning committee should meet in April and possibly be ready with ideas and statistics for the remaining points in the plan so that less "brainstorming" would be necessary.

Item #7. Any other Items of Business That Need to Be Brought Before This Committee

Krista Ross asked if there were any other items of business to bring before the Board. No other items of business ~~to bring~~ ^{were brought} before the Board. No other items were brought up.

Item #8. Next Meeting

Krista Ross and Barbara Polizzi as co-chairs with the agreement of the committee set the next meeting date for Thursday, April 22nd, 1999 at 10 A.M. at the Dodgeville Public Library.

Item #9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Victoria Kolb to adjourn the meeting and Valerie Foley seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Earlene M. O'Keefe

Secretary, *Earlene M. O'Keefe*

Enclosure added.