

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

May 27, 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 May 27, 1998 at 10:30 A.M.

Chairperson Valerie Foley called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. The committee member absent was Robert Daentl.

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

Valerie Foley requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mary Lou Fry made the motion and Barbara Polizzi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Valerie asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara made the motion and Therese McCarragher seconded the motion.

Item #6, Outreach Services

Valerie reported on Senate Bill #269 which was signed by Governor Thompson on April 20, and after it was amended the final law called Act 150, became law on July 1, of this year. Valerie explained the essential points of the new law by reading from a copy of the SWLS newsletter, The LINK. Under the new law, county library plans now must provide for reimbursement to public libraries for non-resident service within the system area. Beginning in 2001 counties are required to pay each public library in the county at least 70% of the cost of library services provided to residents of the county that do not maintain a public library (for example, township residents who use a nearby municipal library). Beginning no later than Jan. 1999, Wisconsin libraries are to collect adequate non-resident usage statistics. The newly required minimum county payments will be made in the year 2001, but will be based on calendar year 1999 circulation statistics. The ensuing discussion involved answering questions committee members had about the new law and its meaning for the Iowa County Board, county municipal libraries and residents. The discussion was aided by hand outs Lois Menninga provided from SWLS on costs per county to provide rotating collections and professional journals and also cost per county for centralized purchasing and processing services for its member libraries. During the discussion the term non-resident was explained to the committee. Non-residents of libraries are residents who live in areas where no library has been built to serve its residents. Therefore any resident coming from an area not served by a library (municipality with no library or townships with no library built outside the municipal boundaries) is considered a non-resident. Hollandale and Ridgeway residents are non-resident populations when they visit any Iowa County municipal library. Also any Moscow township resident or Ridgeway township resident is considered to be a non-resident when using a municipal library such as Dodgeville Public Library or Barneveld Public Library. Tax monies collected by counties for library services in non-municipal areas or municipal villages, cities etc. without a library within municipal boundaries eventually goes to systems to offset the costs of library services to county residents. Prior to the last part of 1997 and early 1998 county tax monies were used to offset costs of bookmobile services, rotating collections, and centralized processing in the Southwest System. Since it has been determined that the bookmobile is finished and currently reading rooms are not a "viable solution" for adequate library services to county residents, municipal libraries are currently serving county non-residents as before but with perhaps more clients being served since former bookmobile clients are using already established municipal libraries. Librarians Krista Ross, Barbara Polizzi, and Earlene O'Keefe answered inquiries on the history of Iowa County library funding, what that funding provides currently, and possible services that Iowa County libraries may be able to provide for outreach services after more county funding becomes available. One change will be rewriting of contracts for county library services to non-residents such as between the System and the county board. Other questions asked were how public

schools and public libraries could work together as far as open hours etc. Inquiries about outreach programming of public libraries was discussed. Each library gave replies on what existed now and how it was provided. Staffing and "paid" time seemed to be an obstacle, especially in the smaller county libraries. Scheduling programs which did not interfere with other community programs a "targeted audience" was participating in was a problem, too. But it was established that many libraries provided story hours now as part of its services to its municipality and non-residents also have come. Barbara Polizzi felt we should direct our thinking toward county wide services and what could be done above what we do now; she urged to keep in mind that as a result of restructuring library funding, libraries should see reimbursement for what we have done and are doing now for county non-residents with little "direct" monies for that service. There was some discussion that possibly we would have to put our library planning committee meetings off until near county budget time. By this time we might have more direction as far as information county boards had received and how they would begin to prepare for the restructuring of funding as well as what the Southwest System plans to do. It was suggested by Barbara Polizzi that librarians should do an informal survey as to what non-residents who use our libraries wish to see in services to them throughout the next few months.

Item #7. ICLPC Term Appointments

Barbara Polizzi, Diane Sterba, and Krista Ross, were up for reappointment to terms on the committee. Mr. Robert Daentyl would be taking LaVerne Draves former committee assignment.

Item #8. Any Other Business Brought Before the Committee

Diane Sterba, Cobb Librarian, explained that we have to realize we are going through a tremendous transition and committee work done prior to this was done in "good faith" as to what direction Iowa County non-residents wanted services. Now service planning and funding is out of our hands due to new state mandates regarding library services, especially to non-residents and Systems, County Boards, County Library Planning Committees, and library personnel will need to rethink how to best provide library services and funding in a more equitable way according to state statutes.

Valerie read a thank you note from past committee member LaVerne Draves who had received a fruit basket from the committee in appreciation for his dedicated service to our committee.

Item #9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled at the Cobb Public Library at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 1998.

Item #10. Adjournment

Victoria Kolb made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mary Lou Fry. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Earlene O'Keefe.

Secretary
Earlene M. O'Keefe

