

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

June 10, 1997

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 Barneveld Public Library, Barneveld, WI on June 10, 1997 at 6:30 P.M.

Acting chairperson Valerie Foley called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. Earlene O'Keefe interim secretary was asked to record the minutes. Committee members present were Valerie Foley, Mary Lou Fry, LaVerne Draves, Barbara Polizzi, Victoria Kolb, Lois Menninga, Earlene O'Keefe, Krista Ross, Diane Sterba, Therese McCarragher, Joan Mish, and Inez Learn. Guests at the meeting were Margaret Koegel of Linden and JoDon Anderson, Acting Director of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System.

Motion for certification of open meeting was made by Mary Lou Fry and seconded by Inez Learn. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Lois Menninga and seconded by Victoria Kolb. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joan Mish and seconded by Krista Ross. Motion carried.

Item #6. Elections.

Valerie Foley began this part of the meeting by explaining that 4 positions on the library planning board would be open for appointment or reappointment for a 3 year term by a county board member who represents the portion of the county from which a vacancy on the committee occurred. Inez Learn asked not to be reappointed to a 3 year term on the planning committee and mentioned that perhaps the representative from Arena area on the County Board be asked to appoint someone else. She did relate that she might be available to assist if possible in the establishment of a site in Arena for bookmobile deposit material collections should a site become available in Arena for the collection pending approval for collections by the System Board and County Boards. Joan Mish asked to be able to retire from the library planning board, also. Inez and Joan's vacancies would require two people to be appointed for the "at large" vacancies on the planning board. There were inquiries by various committee members as to the procedure used to appoint and reappoint members. LaVerne explained past procedures and asked that the committee agree on a procedure before acquiring names for new committee members.

Barbara Polizzi recommended that we keep the acting chair person and interim secretary for now. After some discussion Valerie asked that perhaps she might consider being vice chair rather than chairperson. Earlene O'Keefe agreed to stay on as secretary for now.

Valerie Foley asked what our focus as a committee should be for the coming year. Krista Ross suggested that educating county people and making them aware of the needs and services they demand might be more helpful this year. She suggested getting county people to write letters, sign petitions, or stand up in some manner for library services. LaVerne said that possibly a survey could be considered and questions posed to ascertain what county people wanted. A discussion followed on increased hours in municipal libraries and the pros and cons of providing increased services, personnel, etc.

Valerie asked to get back to the elections. After asking some members to be considered for chairperson, it was moved by Barbara Polizzi to consider Lois Menninga and Valerie as co-chairpersons. Victoria Kolb seconded the motion. Motion carried. Earlene O'Keefe was nominated as secretary by Joan Mish's motion and this motion was seconded by Mary Lou Fry. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on the regularity of meetings and how best to proceed.

Item #7. Goodwill Presentation of Ideas.

Valerie Foley asked if anyone had new ideas to present to the committee. Diane Sterba said she liked the folder and ideas presented by WLA and sent to public libraries. She read a few examples from the folder.

Barbara Polizzi suggested we as a committee should consider giving ourselves time to build a friendly presentation for the county board and their members rather than rushing it. She suggested possibly this presentation should be put off for this year. Suggestions by planning committee members followed. Valerie Foley held up some early career books that could be checked out or obtained by libraries. These were presented to demonstrate how early interest in careers by children could spark an interest in medicine or research which could benefit society.

Earlene O'Keefe read from a newsletter about adults as lifelong learners and the role libraries play in each decade of one's life.

Barbara Polizzi suggested making the effort of spreading the word on new library materials and services on a personal level and possibly not by news articles entirely.

JoDon Anderson mentioned the possibility of a cost on cross county borrowing.

Barbara Polizzi asked if directors should put together a list of people we could count on to "talk up" libraries and support libraries especially from the rural areas. Also it was suggested that possibly libraries inquire of their municipalities as to the cost of adding 4 open Sunday hours to library schedules.

JoDon Anderson, acting director of the Southwest Wisconsin System, inquired if the committee had considered how rural people in Iowa County would be served when the bookmobile ceases to run at the end of 1997. JoDon was at the meeting to see what direction we as a committee were considering when it comes to serving rural county people. She related the results of a March 3, 1997 meeting at the Southwest System in Fennimore in which the chair people or person of the county finance committees, the county chairpersons, and 2 members of each library planning committee were present. Ultimately it was decided to order a new van for the System that would deliver deposit material collections to former bookmobile sites in the county should that be the direction counties would go in delivering rural library service. At this point that delivery option is not in place.

Some committee members expressed that it was difficult to give JoDon input because it would be important to know what portion of the budget was used for only bookmobile services in the County budget and this figure was not available. The committee felt they needed more of a break down on bookmobile costs in order to study what direction to give the Southwest System regarding new ways of delivering county library services.

Some librarians suggested perhaps the money used for bookmobile should be divided between 4 county libraries and they would decide how best to serve rural people in their communities. One suggestion would be to have rural people call a local library with a specific request and a library could send the request on the van to the nearest library in which that person could retrieve the material requested.

Another suggestion was for volunteers to "man" deposit collection sites previously discussed; rural people would visit these sites on certain days and hours as they had previously done on bookmobile stop days.

By October 1997 municipal officials should be aware of the fact that county bookmobile stops will cease. Then possibly village officials will need to consider how this fact may impact upon their 1998 budget for library services.

Item #8. Any other items of business to be brought before the committee.  
Tabled until next meeting.

Item #9. Next Meeting.

The committee decided another meeting needed to be scheduled next month to continue to study what direction Iowa County libraries will take to serve rural library clients after Dec. of 1997 when bookmobile service ceases. Also the committee would like to become aware of what portion of the County budget for the bookmobile services might be available to serve rural library clients in order to make an informed decision on how to best serve the rural people.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening, July 8th at 6:30 P.M. at the Mineral Point Public Library, Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

Item #10. Adjournment.

Valerie Foley called for an adjournment. Joan Mish made a motion to adjourn. Inez Learn seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

*Earlene M. O'Keefe*

Earlene M. O'Keefe  
Secretary