

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEP. 9, 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 Dodgeville Public Library on Sept. 9, 1997 at 6:30 P.M.

Chairperson Valerie Foley called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Committee members present were Lois Menninga, Earlene O'Keefe, LaVerne Draves, Valerie Foley, Therese McCarragher, Barbara Polizzi, Krista Ross, Caroline Hendrickson, and Peggy Daentl. Gretchen Dietrich appeared as a member of the Lafayette County Library Planning Committee. JoDon Anderson appeared on behalf of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System as the acting director.

Valerie asked for a motion for certification of an open meeting. Barbara Polizzi made the motion and Krista Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Valerie Foley explained some items on the agenda. LaVerne Draves commented that in a phone call to Valerie prior to the meeting, he mentioned libraries should be thinking of asking for help from the county for their libraries. He explained what the library committee's budget covered such as expenses for mileage and postage. A motion to approve the agenda was made by LaVerne Draves and seconded by Caroline Hendrickson.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barbara Polizzi and seconded by Therese McCarragher.

Item #6. Bookmobile/ Outreach Services

Valerie Foley began this part of the meeting by reading the letter that was sent by the Iowa County Library Planning Committee to townships and villages who were currently on the bookmobile route. This letter was composed by the Iowa County Library Planning Committee to explain that Southwest Wisconsin communities being currently served by the bookmobile might have to decide between two options on how they wanted to be served by county funds should the bookmobile cease to run. The committee's letter to determine the townships and village's opinions on bookmobile service came as a result of being requested to study the issue by chairperson Richard Scullion and apprise the County Board of its results. In addition to reading the letter, Valerie had summarized the responses to it on a summary sheet and each committee member was given a copy to study. In the ensuing discussion Gretchen Dietrich inquired as to what portion of the bookmobile budget was Iowa County's responsibility. JoDon informed her that \$11, 783 was Iowa County's portion of the budget. Gretchen also asked Valerie Foley if townships and communities in Iowa County chose to use their county libraries instead of furnishing and administering a site to put Southwest Wisconsin System Bookmobile materials, what would be expected of these communities. Valerie hoped that these communities would ask the County Board to turn over funds that ordinarily were used to furnish bookmobile services to the four county libraries. This might increase their budgets so they could fund more open hours for county library residents.

Valerie informed our committee that Highland did not like either option offered by our committee and in a letter to her the village clerk informed her that letters had been sent to Dale Schultz,

John Benson, and David Brandemuehl informing them of Highland's displeasure in the possible demise of county bookmobile service to their village and also asking them for assistance in this matter. JoDon Anderson had received information from Mr. Brandemuehl, Mr. Alan Zimmerman, from the Department of Public Instruction, and Dale Schultz's office.

JoDon informed the committee that there had been no official vote on dropping the bookmobile, especially on the county or system level. It was the consensus at a meeting in March 1997 at Fennimore that if the bookmobile was not funded by three counties, Iowa and Crawford counties could not fund the bookmobile by themselves. After much discussion by the committee Barbara Polizzi stated that at least our committee had studied the bookmobile problem and had acted in good faith in offering options and trying to solicit opinions from communities and townships which would be affected if the bookmobile ceased. She concluded our committee does not have power in this matter, but she felt the library system board could gain some direction by being informed of the responses to the letter the committee sent to communities affected by bookmobile service or lack of it. Therefore she felt the secretary of the committee should write a letter to the System Board, County Board, and Robert Daentl, Iowa County Board representative on the SWLS Board, informing them of our letter and subsequent responses to it by Iowa County communities and townships in an effort to give the System Board information that might prove useful to them in making decisions about library services to Iowa County residents. The next several minutes were spent drafting a cover letter to the Southwest Wisconsin System Board, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, and Robert Daentl. This cover letter would be sent to these people along with the actual copies of letters and summary of responses received from the communities currently served by the bookmobile.

Item #7. Any Other Items of Business Brought Before This Committee

JoDon Anderson, acting director of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System, presented the Southwest Wisconsin Library System 1998 Budget Proposal to our committee and explained Iowa County's portion of the proposed System Budget. LaVerne Draves and Barbara Polizzi recommended that committee members and especially county librarians urge our representatives on the Iowa County Board of Supervisors to support Iowa County's portion of the proposed System Budget when it is presented to the County during the budget committee hearings. Also any people in the community who have an interest in quality library service should be informed of the need to keep their representatives on the County Board apprised of their wishes to keep libraries funded as proposed by the Southwest Wisconsin Library System.

Item #8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening, Nov. 4th at 6:30 P.M. at the Cobb Public Library, Cobb, WI.

Item #9. Adjournment

Valerie Foley called for an adjournment. Earlene O'Keefe made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Earlene O'Keefe

Earlene O'Keefe