

MINUTES OF THE IOWA COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nov. 17, 1995

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, Dodgeville, Wisconsin on Nov. 17, 1995 at 6:30 P.M.

Chairperson, Peter Press called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Since Secretary Valerie Foley was absent Earlene O'Keefe was appointed to call the roll. Members present were Peter Press, Lois Menninga, Mary Lou Fry, LaVerne Draves, Joan Mish, Inez Learn, Victoria Kolb, and Earlene O'Keefe. Absent were Tom Kelly, Therese McCarragher, Valerie Foley, and Cheryl Lemanski.

Motion for certification of an open meeting was made, seconded, and passed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Victoria Kolb and seconded by Mary Lou Fry. Motion carried. Since there was not a quorum present at the Oct. 19, 1995 meeting at the Cobb Public Library, minutes did not need to be approved. Instead a report from the last meeting was approved.

#6 Update on Spring Green Public Library/ Cross Border Borrowing--Barbara Morford, Director of Bossard Memorial Library, Spring Green--Peter Press introduced Barbara Morford to the committee and gave a brief explanation of her purpose at the meeting which was to explain the impact cross border borrowing by Iowa County residents is having on the Spring Green Library. Barbara Morford began her report by presenting two handouts to each committee member. One was a map of the Spring Green Library's service area which included surrounding townships in both Iowa and Sauk Counties. The second handout included population statistics of Spring Green, Spring Green Township, and also population statistics from the village of Arena as well as Arena, Clyde, and Wyoming Townships. It also included figures of Non-Resident use by rural Sauk and rural Iowa County residents which included the population of the village of Arena in Iowa County. Non-Resident use or circulation in the Spring Green Library for 1993 was 47%. 47% of their total circulation of materials was checked out by non-residents of the village of Spring Green. (In other words rural township residents of Iowa and Sauk Counties).

In her presentation Barbara reported that 25% of their non-resident usage came from rural Iowa County townships and one village who crossed over into the South Central Library System of which the Spring Green Village Library is a member. There was some discussion as to how the Iowa County libraries are funded by their county and how the Spring Green Library is funded by Sauk County. In Iowa County the whole County Board sits in on the Budget Meeting and the library budget is presented to the whole Board. In Sauk County a county finance committee hears the budget and then it is presented to the Sauk County Board. In Sauk County there is a line item in the budget for specific libraries. No money from Sauk County goes to the South Central System. In Iowa County the entire County Board approves the library budget for Iowa County libraries and the Southwest Wisconsin Library System allocates the money from this budget to give library service to Iowa County residents. Further discussion was held concerning the per capita library tax rates of rural residents in both Sauk and Iowa County versus the per capita library tax rates paid by municipality residents in both counties who had a library within their village. Significant differences in library tax rates per capita existed in both counties between what amount the rural non-resident tax payer pays in library taxes and the amount the resident municipal tax payer pays to support his village library. Finally Barbara asked for some discussion as to what steps could be taken to inform the Iowa County Board of the cross border borrowing of materials from the Spring Green Library by non-residents from rural Iowa County. She expressed that perhaps a dialogue should begin between the

Spring Green Sauk County Library and the Iowa County Board to make the Board aware of the situation and also inform them of problems created by this cross border non-resident borrowing including financial problems. LaVerne Draves informed her and the committee when the new county board would be seated in 1996 and also mentioned calendar months which might be the best to begin informing the Iowa County Board not only of this problem but also the need for continuing library support for Iowa County Library service.

At this point Barbara Morford left the meeting and the planning committee meeting continued.

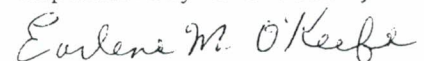
Lois Menninga mentioned at this time that the minutes of Aug. 24, 1995 meeting should be amended to include the new officers of the Iowa County Library Planning Committee for 1995-1996. Therefore they were amended to include chairperson Peter Press, Vice-Chair Tom Kelly, and Secretary Valerie Foley. Mary Lou Fry made a motion to accept the Aug. 24, 1995 minutes as amended. Lois Menninga seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#7 Planning for 1996 Iowa County Budget Request for Libraries-Peter Press began this discussion by asking LaVerne Draves why the library portion of the county budget was put at the end of the county budget hearing and approved then and not within the category it was listed under which was leisure activities and education. Mr. Draves explained that the counties have a ceiling on the mill rate imposed by the state and libraries are not included in this part of the budget with a ceiling on the mill rate. The library budget adopted by the county in November was \$45,156. After some discussion about the library portion of the county budget, the members of the committee felt there was a need to work with the county board on securing fair funding for library services in the county. Joan Mish made a motion that our goal for 1996 be a presentation to the county board requesting direct funding to the 4 county libraries so that rural residents are paying more fairly their share for services they are currently receiving. Victoria Kolb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LaVerne Draves asked for suggestions for representatives to the library system board. Peter Press suggested Henry Bothfeld.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Friday March 22nd at 6:30 P.M. at the Dodgeville Public Library. LaVerne Draves made a motion to adjourn. Inez Learn seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Earlene M. O'Keefe
Acting Secretary in
Valerie Foley's absence