



**WOODLANDS LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**Order**

The Advisory Council meeting, held at the Jackson District Library Meijer Branch, was called to order at 10:03 am by Angela Semifero, Advisory Council Chair.

**Introductions**

Jen Wrzesinski – Adrian District Library  
Cindy Stanczak – Albion District Library  
John Rucker – Branch District Library  
Janice Jones – Constantine Township Library  
Lise Mitchell – Grand Ledge Area District Library  
Bryonna Barton – Hillsdale Community Library  
Angela Semifero – Marshall District Library  
Nancy Bellaire – Monroe County Library System  
Susan Bach – Tecumseh District Library  
Carla Rumsey – Vermontville Township Library  
Joyce Gendron – Waldron District Library  
Perri Saunders – White Pigeon Township Library  
Lisa Hofmeister – White Pigeon Township Library  
Kate Pohjola Andrade – Woodlands Library Cooperative  
Laura Claucherty – Woodlands Library Cooperative

**Agenda Approval**

It was moved to approve the agenda as presented. (Moved: Stanczak, Second: Saunders. Motion: Carried.)

**Minutes**

It was moved to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2022 Advisory Council meeting. (Moved: Gendron, Second: Barton. Motion: Carried.)

**Financial Report**

The February and March financial overview was outlined on the agenda. Kate mentioned that the monthly financial reports are posted on the Woodlands website every month, which contain additional financial details.

Woodlands has started to receive this year's state aid funds, so members can now apply for the \$2,000 Innovation grant. The grant application is available on the Woodlands website.

**Committee Reports**

**Children & Teen Services and Continuing Education - inactive  
Personnel**

There was no Personnel Committee report for this Advisory Council meeting.

**Planning and Evaluation**

There was no Planning & Evaluation Committee report for this Advisory Council meeting.

**eResources**

Libraries in Michigan were awarded an American Rescue Plan Act grant, and Woodlands received around \$70,000 to purchase digital content in OverDrive. The eResources committee was tasked with ordering the materials and focused on items that are one copy, one user and will stay in our collection indefinitely. The ARPA grant will also provide libraries with programming kits to promote the new digital content.

Woodlands also renewed the magazine collection in OverDrive for the Woodlands Downloadable Library.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business for this Advisory Council meeting.

**New Business**

There was no New Business for this meeting.

**Discussion Topic**

There was no Discussion Topic for this meeting.

**Break**

The Advisory Council meeting did not take a break.

**Director's Report**

- Kate attended the MLA ThinkSpace on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in December. There have been a lot of materials challenges taking place in public libraries, and it is important that libraries make sure everyone in the community has equal opportunities and access to the materials they need.
- Woodlands will cover RIDES for every member and will pay MCLS directly. If you do receive a bill from MCLS, do not pay it.
- Kate said she was busy with calls and emails from members who had questions regarding filling out state aid reports.
- The Bath Township Public Library is undergoing strategic planning and Kate is helping them through the process. Kate will also lead strategic planning for Woodlands. She plans to create regional focus groups, and will meet with librarians. It is possible the Woodlands committee structure could change during the strategic planning process.
- Kate is serving on the MCLS and the FOML boards.
- Kate led a Zoom board orientation for the Albion District Library.
- Woodlands created an email list for libraries who offer seed libraries. The list is to share best practices and programming ideas for those who have, or are interested in starting, a seed library.
- Kate is serving on the Michigan Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Task Force, which was created to help libraries through the increase in materials challenges.

**What's Happening in Your Library?****Tecumseh District Library**

Susan Bach – Susan said they have had great response to their seed library. They started the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and are getting ready for summer reading. She has some building maintenance issues to handle, but said things are feeling more like normal.

**Waldron District Library**

Joyce Gendron – Joyce said they had extra programming for National Library Week and Spring Break, and had craft programming where patrons painted on barn boards. They received a couple of grants to purchase craft items. They received a \$1,000 grant from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation to purchase a Slip N Slide for summer reading. They are distributing covid test kits, and have 2 new employees.

**White Pigeon Township Library**

Lisa Hofmeister – Lisa reported that their strategic plan was approved by their board. They also need ideas for a social media policy. They are working on becoming a 501 (c) (3) entity so they are eligible to apply for more grants. They will host 5 summer concerts for teens on Wednesday evenings. They are still waiting to receive the covid testing kits to distribute.

**Monroe County Library System**

Nancy Bellaire – Nancy said business is starting to return to normal. She had a lot of staff overturn due to several retirements, and one death. They held a staff training day.

**Adrian District Library**

Jen Wrzesinski – Jen reported that their patron numbers have picked up. She has been busy with building projects, including creating a Teen Zone by adding a wall to the Youth Services Department. They have upgraded public computers, and the AV in the meeting room.

**Grand Ledge Area District Library**

Lise Mitchell – Lise said they had programming for March is Reading Month. They held a Glow-in-the-Dark egg hunt and had 150 participants each night. They had a Ukulele Kings program, which was a hit. They are busy with summer reading planning, and have a millage vote in August.

**Branch District Library**

John Rucker – John said they have staff retiring and have been hiring replacements. They had in-person staff training, but are still holding their monthly staff meetings on Zoom. They are rejuvenating their Teen Advisory Council, and the youth have been doing community service at the Humane Society. They are holding a One Book, One County community read featuring *Written in Bone: Hidden Stories in What We Leave Behind* by Professor Dame Sue Black. They are repainting the main branch. John would like to thank Sara Tackett and staff at the Jackson District Library for their help on getting Branch's new Book Mobile planned.

**Hillsdale Community Library**

Bryonna Barton – Bryonna reported that they are increasing their programming. They wrote a grant proposal for a maker space. They are starting a pilot project which will make hot spots and tablets available for senior patrons.

**Constantine Township Library**

Janice Jones – Janice said they have a small staff and has had a retired librarian help out. In January they hired a program coordinator, who will increase programming especially for adults. Some of the programs include organizing, first time home buyers, foraging, safety topics, container gardening, olive oil and seasonings, and the history of their County Courthouse. They just started a Lego Club. They will be migrating to Atrium next month.

**Albion District Library**

Cindy Stanczak – They have been creating programming for summer reading. One of their popular senior's programs is at lunchtime, where patrons bring their own lunch and watch PBS documentaries together. They are distributing covid test kits to patrons. They have downsized the number of computers in the library, and are giving away some extra monitors

**Marshall District Library**

Angela Semifero – Angela said they had in-person programming starting in March, and also had 91 tech sessions. They had programs on mindfulness, yoga, and micro gardening. They also had programs every day during the school's Spring Break, which included Pokémon Terrariums. Story time is back, and Saturday programs seem to be very popular.

The council had a short discussion on libraries forming a 501 (c) (3), Gmail accounts, the current cost of living increase and wage increases for staff, and the importance of strong collection management policies to help mitigate materials challenges.

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation for this Advisory Council meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 10:00 am.

**Adjourn**

It was moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting at 11:55 am. (Moved: Stanczak, Second: Barton. Motion: Carried.)

*Angela Semifero*

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Angela Semifero, Woodlands Library Cooperative  
Advisory Council Chair