



**WOODLANDS LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL**
Thursday, April 20, 2023

MINUTES

Order

The Advisory Council meeting, held virtually, was called to order at 11:04 by Angela Semifero, Advisory Council Chair.

Introductions

Cindy Stanczak – Albion District Library
Kristina Reynolds – Bath Township Public Library
Mary Kennedy – Burr Oak Township Library
Ann Sanders – Dorothy Hull Library
Bryonna Barton – Eaton Rapids Area District Library
Lise Mitchell – Grand Ledge Area District Library
Jessica Spangler – Hillsdale Community Library
Trixie McMeeking – Homer Public Library
Mattie Cook-Hildebrandt – Lyons Township District Library
Angela Semifero – Marshall District Library
Nancy Bellaire – Monroe County Library System
Cory Grimminck – Portland District Library
Colleen Leddy – Stair District Library
Susan Bach – Tecumseh District Library
Carla Rumsey – Vermontville Township Library
Joyce Gendron – Waldron District Library
Kate Pohjola Andrade – Woodlands Library Cooperative
Laura Claucherty – Woodlands Library Cooperative

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved to approve the Advisory Council meeting minutes of February 16, 2023. (Moved: Barton, Second: Sanders. Motion: Carried.)

Financial Report

The monthly financial reports are posted on the Woodlands website. State Aid is starting to be paid out to members, but the Woodlands office has not yet received our report from the Library of Michigan. As soon as we receive information on what has been paid to members, we will send out invoices.

Committee Reports

Kate is in the process of finalizing the list of members for each committee. Committees will start to resume their work soon. Kate reported that the Michigan Library Association will hold a facilities webinar this summer.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business for this Advisory Council meeting.

New Business

There was no New Business for this meeting.

Discussion Topic

Librarians stood up to express their outrage at a proposed ordinance by Cass County, which would set criminal penalties that could have been forced against librarians for disseminating sexually explicit content to a minor. The proposed ordinance was withdrawn after librarians expressed their concern and the precedent this would set. Kate again recommends that libraries update their policies and keep their board up to date, and to talk to your community about the role of public libraries before a problem arises. If you need to talk to an attorney, grant money is now available through Woodlands. Kate modified the IT and Continuing Education grant money requirements to include legal fees. One member reported she provided staff training on how to handle a materials challenge from a patron. Kate can also help train your staff on this if you need her assistance.

Break

The Advisory Council did not take a break.

Director's Report

- Libraries can now apply online for their \$2,000 Innovation grant funds.
- Kate plans to create an ad hoc committee to evaluate our digital collections to see if they are being used by your patrons. She plans on the committee doing the research on usage, and then making recommendations on if the service is worth the cost.
- Woodlands chartered a 56-passenger bus to go to the ALA Conference Exhibits in June. She is waiting to open registration to see if we can arrange a partner to get discounted passes for the exhibit.
- Woodlands will cover every member's RIDES cost next year, including any surcharges. Kate reminded members to contact RIDES if they have any service problems.
- The OverDrive app will no longer be available after May 1st, and patrons will need to switch to Libby. OverDrive has marketing information on their website. Woodlands will join the OverDrive reciprocal lending group on May 1st. This will allow your patrons to borrow materials from other OverDrive consortiums, with the possibility of this service becoming statewide in the future.
- Kate has talked to several member libraries about helping them with their strategic planning.
- Kate is in the process of updating Woodlands' logo and website. She is also working on updating our policies.
- Kate stated that FOIA is being weaponized, and reminded members that even board members personal email, if used for board business, can be subject to a FOIA request. It is the current opinion that it is the individual's responsibility to fulfill a FOIA request. Kate recommends that libraries make sure their FOIA policy is up to date, and to make sure your staff knows how to handle a request as there are deadlines.

What's Happening in Your Library?**Monroe County Library System**

Nancy Bellaire – Nancy said they were taking their book mobile to Advocacy Day. They will have an all-staff, in-person, Zingerman's Customer Service training day in May. Staffing issues are ongoing. They have added cake pans to their Library of Things. Penal fines continue to be low.

Homer Public Library

Trixie McMeeking – Trixie said they also have had staffing issues.

Dorothy Hull Library

Ann Sanders – Ann said they have a millage election on May 2, and with an organized opposition she does not know what to expect. They are also watching the Cass County ordinance issue closely.

Portland District Library

Cory Grimminck – Cory reported they continue to spend funds from a grant they received with the school. She also reported they paid their last debt levy payment.

Eaton Rapids Area District Library

Bryonna Barton – Bryonna said they will have a tea party with a local tea shop. They will also partner with their local community garden organizers for their seed library. They will also partner with Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing again this summer. She reported that their wood story walk

keeps getting vandalized, so they are hoping to get an LSTA grant to create one in metal. Their IT coordinator developed guidelines to help keep kids safe on the Internet for their summer reading program.

Bath Township Public Library

Kristie Reynolds – Kristie said the Nights for Notables is this Saturday and she recommended members attend. They have had a 50% growth in circulation and have increased their programming. They are having their local Congressperson come to the library, and their seed library is growing. They are creating a Safe Route to School, will create a story walk, and will feature Pete the Cat for summer reading. They are focusing on a year of being thankful and are thanking and developing partnerships with their community.

Waldron District Library

Joyce Gendron – Joyce reported they have raised \$2,700 towards the \$15,000 they need to replace their roof. In May they will give away plants to their patrons for gardening. They have had several holiday painting projects. They have had one staff change.

Hillsdale Community Library

Jessica Spangler – Jessica said they have been short a board member. They have just signed up for Better World Books in hopes of selling some unwanted materials. They have started to receive shelf ready materials and it has helped a lot. They are having two Yoga sessions, one for adults and one for children. They have held a meeting called Coffee and Conversation, which is a special meeting to talk to patrons about issues they have with service and will take appropriate issues to the board. They are restructuring their layout to create a Teen Zone.

Albion District Library

Cindy Stanczak – Cindy reported that this is the first time in three years they have been fully staffed. They are using charitable donations to develop a Maker Space. They are preparing for summer reading to start June 10th. They have had numerous power outages in the last few months, and it damaged the local history room HVAC. They have filed an incident report with their insurance company after each power surge and are figuring out a surge protection solution. They had an Irish dance troupe program and had 70 people attend. The Friends are providing them with a Wowbrary subscription. Cindy was happy to report she qualified for the federal student loan forgiveness.

Grand Ledge Area District Library

Lise Mitchell – Lise said they had a good turnout for their open house. They have a lot of homeschoolers using the library. They will host an art show for the next three weeks. Their photography program was well attended. And they are still distributing take home craft kits.

Marshall District Library

Angela Semifero – Angela said they will do their summer reading scavenger hunt again this year. Patrons go to local businesses to collect trading cards, then submit them to the local toy store for a prize drawing. They added sewing machines to their Library of Things. They had a Murder Mystery Party and had 45 people sign up. They had a lot of programming for the kids during spring break.

Burr Oak Township Library

Mary Kennedy – Mary reported they are working on getting another set of shelves, they have a new computer system for their counter checkout station, and they are working on getting their summer reading program set up.

Vermontville Township Library

Carla Rumsey – Carla reported they have just hired their first new staff member in 20 years. They had an opening due to retirement. They are having a millage renewal and Headlee rollback recovery. Their May program is Plant a Purple Garden. They have seeds available for purple lettuce, purple tomatoes, purple carrots, and purple peppers. A local garden is helping them with the project. They are getting started on summer reading.

Stair District Library

Colleen Leddy – Colleen reported that several businesses in Morenci celebrated St. Patrick's Day and they joined in with a Shamrock Shebang which was very successful. Patrons enjoyed the 10 activities they offered and had 151 people attend. The LCHD Community Health Navigator topic was spring cleaning and decluttering the mind, and they made homemade cleaning supplies, and had a quick book talk about relevant resources. They set the date for their outdoor musical instruments open house and the Council

approved closing off main street for their Drummunity program. Their Council wants them to buy their library building, and they have a millage renewal coming up in 2024, which is when their lease ends.

Public Participation

There was no public participation for this Advisory Council meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10:00 am.

Adjourn

It was moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting. (Moved: Reynolds, Second: Sanders. Motion: Carried.)

Angela M Semifero

Angela Semifero, Woodlands Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Chair