

MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 – 1:00 PM
OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041
OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us

(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Debra Schroeder, Farnsworth Public Library Rep; Judy Patenaude, Lena Public Library Rep; Kathleen Marsh, Lakes Country Library Rep; Susan Mogged, Oconto Falls Library Rep; Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library Systems Board Rep; Al Sleeter, Administration Committee Rep; LoAnn Elbe, Suring Library Rep; Vicki Gooding, Library Services Board Rep.; David Parmentier, County Board Supervisor Rep

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Dawn Byars, Gillett Public Library Rep; Tom Bitters, County Board Supervisor Rep

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Heath, County Administrator; Lisa Sherman, Finance Director; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Shannon Stoner, Gillett Public Library; Amy Peterson, Farnsworth Public Library; Katie Essermann, Lakes Country Library; Rachel Pascoe, Oconto Falls Library; Jill Trochta, Suring Public Library; Tracy Vreeke, NFLS; Connie Meyer, NFLS; Dave VanZeelnad, District 29; Beth Trudell; Jean Grosse; Bonnie Hearley, Lori Repinski, Linda McKenna, Dandie Lehto

1. Call to Order

Chair Schroeder called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Change of Sequence – None.

2.2. Removal of Items – None.

Motion by Patenaude/Elbe to approve the agenda. The motion was voted on and carried by a show of hands.

3. Communications

Anyone who wants to address an agenda item or give a presentation and/or communication at the meeting must contact the Chair at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Communications or presentation requests received less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting may be heard at the Chair’s discretion.

Chair Schroeder explained the reasoning behind this directive. Pytleski explained this did not have any bearing on the committee members' right to participate in the discussion; only regarded items to be placed on the agenda.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Patenaude/Mogged to approve the minutes of the 04/04/2024 meeting. The motion was voted on and carried by a show of hands.

5. Library Director Work Group Report

Five of the six library directors presented the Library Director Work Group Report. Lena Public Library Director, April De La Ruelle, was unable to attend due to working the circulation desk that day.

The directors worked in conjunction with Connie Meyer, Nicolet Federated Library System (NFLS) Board Trustee, and Tracy Vreeke, Director of NFLS. The group met virtually three times and in person once. Pascoe gave a recap of the scope of work. The agreed-upon principles of the group were sustainability and fairness. The work group discussed use of transition time for any changes as a goal is to preserve current services. Essermann reviewed statistics based on actual use and services being provided by Brown County at a discounted rate. Stoner discussed the exploration of options that were deemed most reasonable. Trochta reviewed the list of goals and funding options commenting that this list is not exhaustive and there was the use of estimates when solid numbers were not available.

Peterson commented on the goal of keeping libraries whole and her 10 years of service at three Oconto County locations, Lena, Oconto Falls, and Oconto, highlighting the diversity of each branch. Committee

was asked to let go of old metrics knowing today's proposal doesn't consider those metrics and is not based on tax levy. A spreadsheet with three funding options was presented (on file with the County Clerk's Office). Discussion followed. Discussion followed regarding a no-harm clause, language in the plan that if a request for a new joint agreement comes forward the funding from the county apportionment would be adjusted, and an annual review of the plan.

6. Report on Levy Limit – None.

7. Report on the Step-Down Process – addressed under item #5.

8. Discuss Changes for the Oconto County Library Services Plan 2025-2029; possible action

Committee discussed plan language if a new joint library is formed, a Mission Statement to be included in the library services plan, allowable action for this meeting, and the feasibility of plan passage. Motion by Mogged/Sleeter to choose funding Option C (100% of circs to Municipal libraries and 70% of circs to joint libraries plus \$37,000.00 by 2029) with an annual review. Discussion followed. The motion was voted on and carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes, 1 nay (Marsh), 2 absent. Discussion continued regarding other suggested changes.

9. Set Dates for Public Hearings

Before holding the public hearings, the committee would like to present a report to the Administration Committee on June 13, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. and the County Board on June 20, 2024, at 11:30 a.m to give the decision-makers a better understanding of the process, requirements, and goals before having to take any formal action.

10. Public Comment

The following public addressed the committee: Vreeke, McKenna, Marsh, Lehto.

11. Identify Future Agenda Items

- A subcommittee request for presenting information to the local boards.
- Committee was asked to proof the plan wording for action at the next meeting.
- Developing a Mission Statement.
- Annual Review language.
- Preview a draft of the June 13, 2024, Administration Committee presentation.

12. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)

- Pytleski attended the Book It fundraiser for the Lakes Country Library and commented on the wonderful event!

13. Set Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Library Planning Committee is Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Sleeter/Elbe to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m. The motion was voted on and carried.