

Dakota County Library Board Retreat
April 17, 2010
9:00 a.m.
Dakota County Wescott Library

Present: Ms. Berggren, Ms. Kes, Mr. Duling, Mr. Larsen, Ms. Zenk, Ms. Hanauer, Mr. Pogatchnik

Library Staff: Ken Behringer, Library Director; Roseanne Byrne, Deputy Director; Kathy Peterson, administrative staff; Maureen Gormley, Information Services Manager

Others in attendance: Commissioners Nancy Schouweiler and Liz Workman Tom Novak, PS&R; Jane Vanderpoel, OPA

The day was intended to provide time for more in-depth discussion of topics and trends affecting Dakota County Library and public libraries within the state and the country. No budget or policy proposals were presented for vote by the Library Board.

The initial discussion was based on a presentation related to changing Dakota County demographics and socio-economic trends by Jane Vanderpoel of the county's Office of Planning and Analysis.

Ken Behringer and Tom Novak outlined factors at the state and federal level that may have an impact on Dakota County finances for operations in 2011 and beyond. Since there is no clarity at this time about the full impact of state decisions on county resources, this session was informational only.

Information Services Manager Maureen Gormley discussed planning associated with the Library's Information Services Initiative team. The topic of how to improve our virtual presence as a means to communicate with customers was discussed.

Ken Behringer mentioned to the Library Board that over the past several years there have been statutory changes affecting the legal status of Library Boards in Washington, Carver and Scott Counties. These changes, approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, have varied from case to case but have the common theme of establishing the Library Board in an advisory role to the County Board in matters of finance and personnel.

Dakota County Communications Department recently produced sample library cards that may be used to replace the current stock as they are expended. The six new card styles proposed have themes with which people might identify, allowing some personalization of the card to the individual holder. The Library Board members expressed appreciation for the creativity new designs.

The Library Board Retreat adjourned at 2:30 p.m.