

Dakota County Library Board
August 11, 2011
5:30 p.m.
Dakota County Farmington Library

Present: Ms. Schatz, Mr. Larsen, Ms. Hanauer, Ms. Berggren, Mr. Duling, Ms. Zenk, Mr. Hendrickson

Library Staff: Ken Behringer, Library Director; Roseanne Byrne, Deputy Director; Kathy Peterson, admin staff

Others in attendance: Mary Scheide, Cluster Manager I; Lee Schubert, Central Cluster Manager; Russ Cogar, Manager, Adult Services; Maureen Gormley, Manager Library Department

President Larsen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda: (item 4) Mr. Behringer commented on the circulation statistics trending down due to the decrease in materials budget, Burnhaven being closed for remodeling and the cut over to Symphony. Ms. Zenk moved and Ms. Hanauer seconded that the consent agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report: (item 5) Ms. Scheide welcomed the Library Board to Farmington and talked about the busy summer reading programs and increase in teen involvement. The teen advisory board has been active and has generated many ideas. She stated that the library has been partnering with 360 Communities in helping bring programs and service information to needy families in the area. She and Mr. Behringer said that the Farmington Business Association successfully rented the library parking lot for \$1 after a laborious County contract was arranged. Ms. Scheide was also featured as a leader in the community at the local Dunn Brothers coffee shop.

Ms. Byrne said that a teen event at Cascade Bay, rescheduled earlier in the summer for weather-related reasons, had been rescheduled for today.

In light of the "new normal" of doing more with less and deciding how to best use staff, Mr. Behringer said that the Library Senior Management team has decided to stop the practice of searching for items on shelving carts in the back room. Often that item is on the shelf or still in a bin and it is not good use of staff time to leave the desk and go look for it. Ms. Schubert said that getting items back on the shelves was a higher priority.

Mr. Behringer said that in response to the increase of theft of games and DVDs, those items will not be available until he and other staff members come up with a plausible way of addressing the situation.

He also talked about the new B-23 position that has been approved by the County Administrator saying there is a need to distinguish tasks between this position and C-41 librarians and substitute librarians. As these operational plans emerge he will bring them forward to the Library Board.

(Item 6.a.) Discussion of New Electronic Resources and Some Sample Devices for Accessing Those Resources: Ms. Gormley demonstrated a Nook and an iPad that had been purchased with MELSA money for staff training. Many customers are coming to the library needing help from staff to access the online collection. Ms. Gormley said that the number of electronic books is rising compared to print. She also said it is quite popular at this time and more library groups will probably enter the market in the near future. Library Board members thanked her for her demonstration and insights.

(Item 6.b.) Update on Legacy Fund-based Program Planning for 2011-2012: Mr. Cogar handed out program lists and guides of past and future Legacy programs. He discussed the planning process, the balance and decisions that need to be made. He said it has been a busy and exciting time and everything has come together well. The most popular and successful programs have been Rhythm & Words, One Book-One Community and author programs. Funding for the current state fiscal year and next is likely to be down about 30% from past levels due to funding reductions at the Legislative level. In designing the full program list, Mr. Cogar intends to build on past success, take into consideration the reduction in funding, and to collaborate with Dakota County parks. Library Board members thanked Mr. Cogar and his team for their enthusiasm and hard work.

(Item 6.c.) Dakota County Library Budget Development Process for 2012: Mr. Behringer handed out the finalized budget document and stressed several points for library board members. He said that Tom Novak had spoken in support of 2012 restoration of funding cut in 2011 from the materials budget, saying continued reductions would have a serious impact on library services and popularity. Mr. Behringer discussed the staff

reduction from 2011 and their cumulative impact since 2009, noting the library had achieved these reductions through attrition. In preparing for the 2012 budget, the Library will also lose another 1.5 FTE positions on one-year funding. These positions are currently vacant and can be removed without affecting employment for existing staff.

In response to question, he said it appeared that the library would not meet the fines and fees revenue target for 2011, though more work needs to be done to verify that all credit cards receipts to date have been reported. With the RFID upgrade, credit card payment will soon be available on the self-check machines – a service expected to collect a bit more revenue.

The library will have three 2012 proposals going forward to County Administration with the support of the PS&R Division. These include: funding for a study to determine needed improvements to Galaxie Library; additional money for materials from county BIP; and funding for continued replacement of public computers as they reach county standards for aging.

There were no other questions or topics to discuss. Ms. Berggren moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Hanauer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. President Larsen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Paul Larsen, Library Board President

Barbara Berggren, Library Board Secretary