

HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY OFFICIALLY WITHDRAWN
Spring Annual Meeting, May 20, 2010, Ridgedale Library

Attendees: Cindy Ahrens, Phyllis Bofferding, Roger Burg, Cathy Chastek, Vicki Dunn, Ann Eccles, Linda Engberg, Bill Erickson, Evelyn Gross, Linda Jennings, Chuck Kritzler, Pat Kulseth, Sandy Louis, Phyllis Mattill, Helen McNulty, Robert H. Rohlf, Lee Schubert, Doris Skalstad, David Smith, Sharyll Smith

Linda Engberg called the meeting to order at 9:40am. All members introduced themselves.

Program

Linda introduced Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director. Lois began her presentation, "Where do we need to be (Here's where we are)." Core services include: being open, having gathering space, technology, staff, and collections. Service priorities at this time are: early literacy, out of school learning, jobs, 55 plus services, and lifelong learning.

Many people today want space more than books, because they use e-books. However, in a computer generated "cloud" of services, books and materials took up the biggest space. There is a tension between customers who want quiet in the building and parents who want space for children to read aloud. Information should be current and free. As Hillary Clinton said when referring to information, "Information as a right" should be the norm. Customers want books to browse through in the building, easy to pick up.

Will libraries be extinct by 2019? What will the future include? How does customer use today lead us into the future? In order to answer these questions. Lois spoke of the mission of the library: to nourish minds, transform lives and to build community togetherness. The capital projects of the future hinge on what the library can afford and when it can afford it. Many times, the money is there for building, but not for the necessary staffing. The operating budget has to be formed with political realities..

The overarching question is: Given that change is constant, resources are reduced and demand is huge, what questions do we need to ask to remain one of the leading libraries in the country? Participants and Lois mentioned the following: How do we engage customers? Can the Central Library, which is now open on Mondays, be open more hours in the Special Collections sections? When will the Excelsior Library be built? How can Outreach be used more to get things delivered to the aging? What level of self-sufficiency can we expect from the public? How much staff is really needed? When we pursue cutting edge technology, can we sustain older technologies? Can the libraries have more drive-up pickups? (Lois mentioned problems with vehicle height differences and staffing) Could libraries have kiosks or small satellite libraries just to pick up reserves?

Lois discussed merger situations. Staffing and new customer service areas were mentioned. A participant asked about using more volunteers. Lois said that volunteers are not to be used to replace positions, therefore they can't do the entire job, but that volunteers do bring to us excellent advocates for the library. Lois mentioned that more marketing and branding is needed in this economy so that the public realizes everything the library can do.

Questions from participants included: The collection budget is taking hits, is there any way to change that? (This is always under consideration.) Why do we have so many libraries? (The County Board won't close anymore.) How can materials delivery be improved, especially at Central and Southdale Libraries? (Southdale is now hiring more workers.)

Lois invited participants to share their unique perspectives with her in the future.

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report- The following correction to the February 18, 2010 minutes, program section, was suggested by Helen McNulty.: “She began her career with the Minneapolis Public Library as a summer replacement at the Central Ave. Branch (Northeast) and Jordan Jr. High.” instead of “She began her career at a Jordan branch in a school.” The minutes were accepted as corrected. Sandy Louis moved to accept; Bill Erickson seconded the motion. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Kulseth told the group that the Balance is still \$590.23, the same as in February.

Committee Reports -

Displays – Phyllis Mattill reported that new ideas are needed for the display. The “Anniversary Celebrations” is the current display at the Ridgedale office.

Archiving – Sandy Louis reported that a computer and printer have been added to the archiving area, thus giving more access and ability to identify where photos, annual reports, etc. are. David Smith mentioned that he has some slides to give to the committee, with people and interiors of libraries on them. Linda Jennings' work with scrapbooks includes history information about various years in the 1960's and 1970's. This work is available on the Officially Withdrawn website. (Pat Kulseth suggested that the website (www.hclow.net) be shown at the next meeting.)

Membership and Newsletter – Pat Kulseth reminded everyone that dues are due today. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent out when the Secretary's minutes are on the website.

Old Business -

After the discussion, at the last meeting, about moving the meeting to different days of the week, the group thought that varying the days (either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) should start next fall. There will still be three meetings a year, in February, May, and September. Locations and dates will be decided by the new Board of Directors. Suggestions were made to visit libraries in Minneapolis, Plymouth and Maple Grove.

New Business-

Roger Burg and Margie Knoedel contacted people for a new Board of Directors. The following were suggested: Pat Kulseth, Bill Erickson, David Smith, Robert Rohlf, and Chuck Kritzler with Linda Engberg as ex-officio. A motion was made to accept the slate by Cindy Ahrens. Linda Jennings seconded. Passed.

At 11:05 Linda ended the meeting. Respectfully submitted, Sharyll Smith