

Winnefox Library System
Strategic Planning Committee
June 26th, 2007 at 3:00 pm at the Berlin Public Library
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tasha Saecker at 3:03. Present were: Mark Arend, Karen Boehning, Marie Boleman, Christine Carroll, Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Ken Hall, Mary Olson, Tasha Saecker, Paul Wade, Sara Wilson, Sandy Zuehlke. Absent: Stephen Proce, Also present: Theo Knigge,

Paul moved and Karen seconded approval of the May 22nd minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Subcommittee Comparing Library Systems Services & Costs reported. They'd had a meeting scheduled but were unable to meet. They have a spreadsheet which compares figures from the annual reports systems file with the state but these are fairly uninformative because of the broad categories that costs are assigned to.

Mary arrived at 3:06

Chris brought up a concern. She asked if we need to wait on this report before proceeding or could we look at end goals and use this subcommittee to set strategies?

Jeff said his perception is that we're getting stuck at the scan stage. Mary agreed that these scans should be used to identify and solve problems after we set goals. Chris asked why this committee is meeting if we're not going to accomplish anything in the meetings.

Jeff talked about the OPL planning process. They set down broad themes to guide the library in setting goals. It seems that our process is not moving that way. Until we finish our self-examination we're not doing much in these meetings.

Chris mentioned that some problems were identified in the January meeting. Why can't we look at that and come up some broad goals. Then we can refine them as other information comes in.

Jeff asked if we still need the environmental scan. Or should we decide if the major themes that came out in January are good for setting goals.

Sara arrived at 3:15

Chris said we don't need the solution in place before we state the goal. Ken said he perceived agreement on redoing the WALs agreement & the WALs fee structure. The question is should the system subsidize WALs with its funds. It appears that other systems spend more state funds on shared system support.

Paul asked if these were some of the problems we were hiring a consultant for? Jeff said the consultant's role is limited to facilitating conversations with member library directors about system services and library needs.

Libraries supporting automated system are feeling strain and would like relief. At present WALIS is member supported with not much state funds. We could redirect funds to this purpose. Or we could use funds from the vacant marketing coordinator position for this purpose. Or we could use these funds for some other service. Ken has concerns about taking a look at new initiatives when the potential increase in state funding is not large and libraries are faced with cutting back. The only new initiative he's interested in is one that saves him staff time or money.

Sandy said that what Chris said is important. We need to look at what all members want and set goals from that.

Jeff said that WALIS fees need to go to the board in July and there probably isn't time to make this decision at this time. He had concerns about using state funds because of the threat to using segregated funds for system funding. We could become dependent on and then lose them. Ken says then we need to look at 'bells & whistles' in WALIS and what we can get rid of. We just can't afford it.

Mary said we're drifting into details again. Sandy said we're treading water and not moving forward. Mary said we should wait on the marketing funding until we set some goals.

Sandy said could we decide on the WALIS funding later. Jeff remarked we could put those funds to WALIS relief at a later time and then revise the budget. Mark mentioned that we take the system budget to the board in September because we have to file next year's plan, including a budget outline with the state by mid-October. Chris asked if the board could amend the budget later. Yes it can.

Jeff reminded the committee that throughout this process staff have been taking a hands-off role. In any case he would not be able to draft goals by the July meeting. Tasha suggested a subcommittee to draft goals for committee review at the next meeting. Deb Wilcox Johnson could then take these goals when she meets for discussions with the committees of directors. Tasha appointed a committee consisting of herself, Sandy, & Ken

Jeff reported no further progress on the environmental scan. It was asked if we need to do this. Mark will send the committee the outline he began and we will discuss it at the July meeting.

The committee discussed the role of the consultant. Mark took the charges as decided by the committee and drafted some open-ended discussion questions. Tasha said last point (on significant needs) should be first question discussed. Chris said that Deb Johnson may have suggestions.

Mary asked if she would attend a board meeting. The consensus was that it would add cost and not be useful.

Sandy questioned if Deb needs background information. Chris said people should be willing to speak up in LACs. Sandy said her questions should be shared with directors before the meetings. Mark said she's been reading our information posted on the web and will be holding a phone meeting with Jeff & Mark on Thursday. Then she meets with the committee on the 31st.

Sara asked if there would be a way for people to contact her after the LAC meetings if they think of something later.

Ken commented that he sees a vast improvement in Winnefox's decision making process over the past six months.

The schedule for Deb's meetings with the directors is on the handout. Once the Winnebago meeting is nailed down for sure the directors will be informed of all the dates. Those who cannot attend their own county's meeting will be invited to attend any of the other county meetings that is convenient.

The committee decided to skip the meeting scheduled for the 24th. Instead we will meet at 2:00 on 31 July at Oshkosh Public Library. Deb will be there beginning at 3:15

Jeff moved and Chris seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The secretary didn't note the time but it was around 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Arend