

**MINUTES OF  
HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
January 27, 2016**

The Hennepin County Library Board met Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at Ridgedale Library.

**Present:** Adja Ann, Caitlin Cahill, Chris Damsgard, Barb Fenton, Jill Joseph, Kathleen Lamb, Doris Rubenstein, Jane Shanard, and Gary Thaden.  
**Hennepin** Katherine Debertin, Bernie Farrell, Josh Friday, Johannah Genett, Maureen Hartman, Lois Lenroot-Ernt, Amy McNally, Janet Mills, Shira Naharit,  
**County Staff:** Nancy Palmer, Saad Samatar, Diane Schanen, Laurie Schuelein, Erica Skinner, Lois Langer Thompson, Ali Turner, and Marilyn Zastrow.  
**Public:** Jonathan Gaw and Sally Mays

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Library Board President Gary Thaden called the Hennepin County Library Board meeting of January 27, 2016 to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Barb Fenton made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Jane Shanard. Motion passed.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chris Damsgard made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 18, 2015 and accept donations; seconded by Jill Joseph. Motion passed. The approval of the draft Reserving and Using Library Rooms policy was moved to Committee Reports for discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

### **LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT**

#### **• ConnectEd Initiative by Katherine Debertin, Saad Samatar and Diane Schanen**

Library Director Thompson attended the ConnectEd Convening in Wahsington, D.C. with Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison and Hopkins School District Superintendent John Schultz, Ph.D.

- Sixty libraries across the country are involved in the White House ConnectEd Library Challenge. In April, 2015, the President announced the ConnectED Library Challenge, calling upon library directors to work with their elected officials and school superintendents to create or strengthen partnerships so that every child enrolled in school can receive a library card. 60 major cities and counties are taking the challenge, which also includes a commitment to support student learning through programming that develops their language, reading, and critical thinking; provide digital resources, such as eBooks and online collections of traditional media; and provide broadband connectivity and wireless access within library facilities.
- Katherine Debertin, Saad Samatar and Diane Schanen shared highlights on how HCL is implementing the ConnectEd Library Challenge.
  - Library cards for every student in Hopkins School District
    - All students in grades 6-12 have iPads or Chromebooks and the library wanted to supply equitable access to digital resources; eBooks, online collections, and databases
    - Teachers expressed that the students are excited about the eBook collection including access to non-fiction, databases and world language materials.
  - Broadband and wireless access
    - Access to broadband and wireless is available at all Hennepin County libraries
  - Programming to support school success
    - A range of quality after school opportunities based on interests and needs are provided including Homework Help, Teen Tech workshops, spaces to collaborate, independent study, and employment opportunities for after school are provided for students.
  - Family connections with parents and guardians; schools communicated partnership and benefits; extending trust to the library. Parents and guardians are given the opportunity to opt out. In Hopkins, no one has opted out and we expect to reach 100% of students.
  - Impact
    - Reaching 7,500 students, their families and their teachers
    - Engaging new and current patrons with renewed awareness of HCL access and services
    - Building a continuous connection with library and school for years to come

- Next steps
  - Reach out to the elementary schools; K-5 and Chinese Immersion school to be completed by June
  - Library staff meet with school staff to discuss challenges and determine if policy changes are needed
  - Consider next districts and how to build our staff capacity to sustain the partnerships.
  - In a few weeks library staff will be presenting at a Hopkins Staff Development Day
- Library Board members asked about logistics, challenges with larger school districts, engaging private schools and all school staff, Federal grants and overall impact.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **• Announcements**

- Strategic planning will include a work session later in the meeting.
- Policy Project Task Force
  - Library Director Thompson explained that a task force will review Library Board policies; the task force will include 2-3 Library Board members and 2-3 Library staff
  - Lois Lenroot-Ernt will lead the group the task force and provide overview and background information
  - The group will look for overlaps and gaps in the current policies as well as ensuring the policies promote access and support the Library's mission
  - Library Board Policy Committee Chair Caitlin Cahill volunteered to be on the Policy Project Task Force
- 2015 Annual Library Board Accomplishments document was reviewed. Notify Marilyn if any changes are needed.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **• Library and Community Updates**

- Strategic Plan year end outcomes report was reviewed
  - Services
    - 2015 goals have been reviewed and all libraries and sections have set goals for 2016
    - Mini grants have been awarded to support innovation
  - Staffing
    - Phase II is underway
  - Hours
    - Data collection and patron input has been gathered
    - The recommendation will go to County Board as part of the briefing that will focus on sustaining library services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - Buildings
    - Brooklyn Park is on schedule for a summer opening
    - Southeast Library is completing a preliminary program
    - Webber Park will have a ground breaking in late spring
    - Golden Valley reopened on January 23.
      - Jane Shanard received a great tour from an adorable seven year old. He was excited showing her around the library and how to do the Legos and specifically pointed out three Mo Willems books that his school didn't have.
      - Improvements include: two new public meeting rooms; an expanded children's area; a new periodical area; and removal of several walls to open the space, improve sightlines and increase natural light. Infrastructure upgrades include new carpeting, wiring and lighting.
    - Gensler architectural firm was selected for the Ridgedale Library project.
    - The ten-year building schedule is under review
- Program highlights
  - Tuesdays with a Scholar meets at Southdale Library, 10-11:30 a.m. starting January 26
  - "Did you know" campaign continues featuring Rosetta stone and Lynda.com
  - History Day Hullabaloo attracted 167 attendees
  - Financial literacy program planning underway for teens and their families and veterans
  - HCL staff picked their favorite books of 2015 for children, teens, and adults and posted it on the public website
  - Introduced former Foreign Service officer and Great Decisions speaker, Tom Hanson at the Edina Library

- Attended the following meetings
  - MELSA Joint Trustee/Advisory Board meetings
  - Cedar Riverside Partnership meetings
  - Brooklyn Park public art visioning event
  - International model for library transformation at Brookdale Library.
    - In addition to the inspiration of visiting dozens of Scandinavian libraries, Robin Neidorf shared insights from some of the in-depth conversations with the other participants - nearly 100 of them, speaking more than 60 languages and representing libraries in more than 40 countries.
  - Learning Dreams Tech Center Celebration
    - Learned about their projects and how this creative experience has positively impacted their lives.
    - This project is a partnership between HCL, Learning Dreams and YouthLink and is funded by the Friends of the HCL.
  - Museums, Libraries and Community Partnerships in Creative Place making.
- **County Updates**
  - 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets update
    - Budget adopted with no changes
  - The County Board of Commissioners 2016 Board Organization was approved on January 5.
    - Jill Joseph to the MELSA & MetroNet Board Committee.
    - Board Chair: Jan Callison
    - Board Vice-Chair: Linda Higgins
    - Libraries, Technology & General Government Committee Chair: Peter McLaughlin
    - Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board: appointed Peter McLaughlin and Marion Greene
  - The Athenaeum contract was approved by the County Board of Commissioners on December 15 and the Library Board received a copy of the signed agreement. The attachments were available for their review.
    - Kathleen Lamb expressed gratitude to Johannah Genett, Ted Hathaway and Chuck Salter for their hard work in this solid agreement. Jill Joseph thanked Kathleen Lamb for her work on this.
    - Doris Rubenstein mentioned the initiative for financial literacy and that she had been on the board for Affinity Plus Credit Union and that they have wonderful speakers that this initiative could take advantage of.
  - Library Director Thompson sat in on Library Board interviews last night. There are 84 applicants and interviews will continue next week on Tuesday, February 2, 1:30 p.m. at the Government Center, County Board Room.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **• Approve draft Reserving and Using Library Rooms policy**

Doris Rubenstein asked if this policy should cover privacy in the use of the meeting rooms. Caitlin said that it falls outside the scope of this policy as this policy specifically applies to reserving a room. Data privacy and patron behavior are covered in the patron behavior and data privacy policies. Adja Ann asked what changed in this policy compared to the prior policy. Caitlin Cahill clarified that this policy was moved to the consent agenda at the last meeting and that there have been no changes since the last meeting. The packet includes the previous policy including a tracked copy. Caitlin Cahill seconded the motion; motion passed (8 aye, 1 nay).

### **• ALA Midwinter Report by Jill Joseph**

Jill Joseph participated in two committee meetings during ALA Midwinter; United for Libraries Literacy and Programming

- The Literacy Committee is merging under the offices of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach and will re-focus to extending outreach to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds. A focus at the ALA National Conference will be outreach services to incarcerated adults and she is working to have HCL Outreach staff present at the ALA Annual Conference.
- The Programming Committee is providing training for new members and will also showcase how libraries celebrate anniversaries. Jill suggested HCL share the Sumner Library Centennial Celebration which was an absolutely wonderful milestone event.
- Jill will attend the ALA Conference this summer

### **• MELSA Trustee's Report by Jill Joseph**

Gary Thaden attended the November meeting for Jill Joseph. The new Executive Director Ken Behringer attended this meeting who was hired after a nationwide search. He had been the director for Dakota County Library. Jill attended the

meeting on January 14. Gayle Degler from Carver County will serve as President and Liz Workman from Dakota County will serve as Vice-President. Jill was elected treasurer. In this role she will serve on the Executive Committee and chair the Finance Sub-Committee.

• **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Strategic Plan 2011-2025 – Work Session**

A key goal for the Library Board in 2016 is to participate in reframing the Library Strategic Plan 2011-2025 for the next 3-5 years. Input from the Library Board members is critical to a successful reframing. HCL is committed to keeping the current mission and vision while reviewing the Strategic Plan objectives.

Lynne Penke with Strategy Management at Hennepin County Center of Innovation and Excellence led the Board in a work session to review the seven current Strategic Plan objectives and gathered their perspectives on the work HCL should prioritize over the next 3-5 years. They considered the question: Where should Hennepin County Library focus next to make the greatest impact in our community with the resources we have?

Library Board members reviewed the seven objectives and discussed their vision for the future.

- Focusing on services that are library based
- Clarifying the goals and meaning of innovative and community-based
- Using the expertise of staff
- Continuing to focus on collections, physical space and staff
- Continuing to improve current services and taking advantage of new opportunities
- Make services more accessible
- Let go of goals that are not the work of the Library

Library Director Thompson thanked the Board for their input. A draft reframe will be presented in February.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Jill Joseph made a motion to adjourn the Library Board meeting at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Barb Fenton. Motion passed. The next Library Board meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 5 p.m. at Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka.

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Sandy Johnson, Secretary