

*The Mission of Lake Agassiz Regional Library
is to share resources
in order to provide access to quality library services
that meet lifelong learning needs,
and enrich the lives of those we serve.*

**LARL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FULL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board of Directors was held on Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the Moorhead Branch. President Bursik called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Board Members Present: Bursik, DuBord, Eid, Ellingson, Hartness, Iverson, Jacobson, R. Olson, W. Olson, Perry, Rooney, Rowell, Simmons, Sprague, Swanson, Waller, Welte, Winter

Board Members Absent: Conzemius, Dale, Kolke, Melby, Newland

Others Present: Fredette, Slicer, Wasserbeck

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nothing added.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Ellingson/Eid) Moved to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2001 Full Board meeting. MCU.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The year is 83% complete with expenses at 80%. Most fourth quarter payments will arrive in November. LARL has received several of the Gates Computers. We have used approximately \$124,000 of the \$166,000 granted.

Welte asked why \$10,000 was taken from reference and put in adult non-fiction. Reference needs less now that many of their resources are online. Collection needs can change throughout the year.

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Olson asked about e-books. Fredette reported that we are currently downloading them for trial and not yet buying them.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was discussion over closing all branches on December 23, 2001 for the holidays. Moorhead, Breckenridge, and Crookston branches would be affected. The branch librarians feel there will be very little use of the library on that day and thus little impact on the public.

(R. Olson/Simmons) Moved to close the three branches of Moorhead, Crookston, and Breckenridge on December 23, 2001 as an unpaid closing. MCU.

Discussion was held over LARL Holidays/Closings for 2002.

(Waller/Swanson) Moved to approve the 2002 Holidays/Closings as presented. MCU.

Fredette explained about the new LARL Teams comprised of staff from all branches. The purpose of these teams is to move the Strategic Plan forward. Each team will have tasks and projects to work on based on the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan.

Fredette drew the board's attention to the Public Information Office report, the 2000 Annual Report, and newspaper articles in the meeting packet materials. A twice a year newsletter will replace the Annual Report starting next year.

Fredette explained the insert diagramming the Department of Children, Families, and Learning (CFL) and where Library Development and Services (LDS) falls in relation to CFL.

Gates computers have been installed in Crookston. The Crookston Public Library held an open house tonight (November 15). Their installation and training took place on Oct. 25th and 26th. Detroit Lakes received their computer installation and training on November 1st and 2nd. Wasserbeck, Beckermann, Pettinger, and Goodin served as substitutes in Reference and Circulation so that all DL staff could participate in the training. The Gates Committee meets regularly to ensure that everything is on track. These regular updates have kept us prepared and up to date.

The Gates Computer Lab upstairs in the Moorhead Branch is done. The Board was invited to tour the new lab after the meeting. In March, there will be a training session on the new Gates computers for any board member who would like to participate.

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Many Board members have heard good things about the LARL website. People like it and find it easy to use.

Fredette updated the Board on the union grievance involving a former Crookston Library Assistant. The Executive Committee voted to deny the grievance. LARL and the union have agreed to mediation.

Fredette reported on LARL's involvement in the separation of NCAP and NLLN. Attorneys will be interviewed to help with the legal issues regarding the separation.

Bagley has been offered as many milled logs as they need to build a new library on a section of land given by the city. The donor, Dennis Fultz, is a former LARL Board member who is still active in the Clearwater County Friends of the Library.

Welte inquired about the worker's compensation claim made by the employee who filed the union grievance. Slicer reported that we filed it but with the stipulation that we did not think it was valid. It is under investigation at the moment.

Winter asked about getting a schedule together for the Mobile Library Winter/Spring 2002 stops. Fredette reported that we would begin working on that soon.

Welte asked if anyone had information on the response from the Signatories. So far only two of the twelve Signatories have approved the 2002 budget. Reports were given along with the local library board reports.

LOCAL LIBRARY BOARD REPORTS

Ada/Norman County (W. Olson). The Ada Public Library has a very active Friends group and many successful programs. Norman County is not going to finance the requested increase. W. Olson is trying to get the county to maintain what they have in the budget presently. The library is getting very little support and the county board is against any increases.

Bagley/Clearwater County (Newland-absent).

Barnesville/Hawley/Clay County (R. Olson; Waller). Hawley had an open house for those individuals/groups who donated for the children's computer. Barnesville and Hawley have received their Gates computers. Hawley will be having a special German Christmas program. A German exchange student will be helping with the program.

Becker County (Winter; Hartness). The county will possibly go with a 2% increase for LARL instead of the proposed increase (+6%). The commissioners want to see cutbacks in the mobile library to make up for the shortfall in funds. The budget is not finalized yet. Welte proposed that cutbacks in the Mobile Library are not negotiable. It is already at the point of all or nothing. He suggested possibly cutting hours at the Detroit Lakes Public Library. Perry stated that a cut in DL library hours could make DL feel as if they are paying and getting cutbacks. The problem in Becker County is that the library is not a priority.

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City of Breckenridge (Conzemius-absent).

City of Crookston (Sprague). The city is taking new bids on carpeting.

City of Detroit Lakes (Welte). Welte stopped by the library earlier in the day and all of the staff were dressed as their favorite storybook character. The children loved it. There is a loaned glass exhibit currently on display. All of the Gates computers are up and running. The staff received training earlier in November. The Detroit Lakes Friends are going to buy five more Gates computers. Mary Haney, DL Supervisor, will complete her MLS degree in December.

City of Mahanomen (Rooney). The Friends of the Library are going to have an open house to inform the public of the new Gates computers.

Mahanomen County (Eid). The budget request is still pending. It has not been approved yet. Eid is trying to protect the library request, but issues county board members feel are more important may hurt LARL's chances of getting the amount requested.

City of Moorhead (Iverson; Rowell). The Friends group is active again. Iverson asked Board members to buy a latte mug from the Friends group. The staff received training and the installation of a defibulator. Work is still being done on the Internet Policy and we are waiting to hear word on the "Dump the Dumbs" grant. The city gave money to the Moorhead Library for capital improvements. The LARL request is in the budget with no problems. Unlike the small counties with a declining tax base, Moorhead has an increasing tax base.

Polk County (Ellingson, Jacobson, Simmons). Jacobson explained that Polk County is being greatly affected by the tax levy. They have budget shortfalls. Several county employees will lose their jobs. It does not look good for LARL's budget request to Polk County.

Wilkin County (Perry). The budget is approved and LARL received what they asked for.

Northern Lights Library Network (Ellingson). The move to Perham is complete. The facilities can be used for training sessions all over the region. There are 24 computers in the lab. The board is welcome to schedule training if they'd like. Director, Ruth Solie, is focusing on training and education. The books have still not been audited, but should be soon.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was discussion over the 2002 Board Meeting Schedule. Several board members have requested not having meetings on Saturdays. All meetings are scheduled for Thursday evenings next year.

The next meeting is the Executive/Finance Committees on December 13th. Bursik proposed that the Finance Committee meet at 5:30 p.m. and the Executive Committee meet at 7:00 p.m. The committee members agreed to these times.

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ELECTIONS

Conzemius, chair of the Nominating Committee, asked MaryAnn Simmons to report on the committee nominations. Simmons presented the nominations.

Executive Committee:

Paul Bursik, President

Stan Iverson, Vice-President

Dave Welte, Treasurer

Dave Conzemius, Member at Large

Norm Ellingson, Member at Large

Elaine Rooney, Member at Large

Jerry Waller, Member at Large

(Simmons/Rowell) moved to approve the list of Executive Committee nominations. MCU.

(Sprague/Winter) moved to cease nominations of committee members. MCU.

(Dubord/Swanson) moved to accept the nominations. MCU.

CIPA REPORT

Iverson gave an update on the work of the CIPA Committee. He showed the Board a draft of the brochure and user agreement form. The signature of a parent of guardian will be required for minors. The Committee is trying to produce a policy that will balance between filtering and having parents monitor their children's Internet use. There will be a public meeting in February. The court case pending in the Supreme Court will be heard on February 14th. CIPA may be overturned.

OTHER

MaryAnn Simmons was presented a plaque in recognition of her service to the LARL Board. Simmons served a three-year term and was appointed by Polk County.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.