

MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 – 1:00 PM
OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041
OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us
(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Debra Schroeder, Farnsworth Public Library Rep; Judy Patenaude, Lena Public Library Rep; Kathleen Marsh, Lakes Country Library Rep; Susan Mogged, Oconto Falls Library Rep; Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library Systems Board Rep; Al Sleeter, Administration Committee Rep; David Parmentier, County Board Supervisor Rep; LoAnn Elbe, Suring Library Rep; Tom Bitters, County Board Supervisor Rep

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Vicki Gooding, Library Services Board Rep.; Dawn Byars, Gillett Public Library Rep

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Sherman, Interim County Administrator/Finance Director; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Shannon Stoner; Amy Peterson, Farnsworth Public Library; Katie Essermann, Lakes Country Library; Rachel Pascoe, Oconto Falls Library; Jill Trochta, Suring Public Library; Lori Repinski; Linda McKenna; Mike Beyer; Russel Brock; Bonnie Hearley

1. Call to Order

Chair Schroeder called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Change of Sequence

2.2. Removal of Items

Motion by Mogged/Patenaude to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was voted on and carried.

3. Communications

Email dated 03/11/2024 from Tracy Vreeke, NFLS to Kim Pytleski, County Clerk, regarding changed to the Library Services Plan being developed by the Oconto County Library Planning Committee; treated as information only.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Correction requested to add Jean Grosse as an attendee at the 02/12/2024 meeting and a typo correction for the spelling of Vreeke. Motion by Parmentier/Bitters to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was voted on and carried.

5. Guidelines for Addressing the Committee

Chair Schroeder read the *Guidelines for Addressing the Committee*.

6. Chair to Address Committee

Chair Schroeder read an address to the committee.

7. Committee Response to Chair's Address

Chair Schroeder opened the floor for members to respond to item #6. Tom Bitters, County Board Supervisor Rep., read the following motion “I make a motion to create a Consolidated County Library System for Oconto County Wisconsin as per the requirements of Wisconsin State Statutes, Section 43.21, entitled Consolidated Public Library Systems. The new Oconto County Consolidated Library system shall be comprised of all existing joint libraries in Oconto County, all existing municipal libraries in Oconto County, and all unserved districts in Oconto County.” Kim Pytleski, County Clerk, raised a point of order and explained that the agenda did not notice the possibility for action, the motion was out of order. Discussion followed. Pytleski explained the need for agendas to notice to the public possible items of action. Discussion continued and Bitters withdrew his motion.

8. Vice Chair to Address Committee

Kathleen Marsh presented a PowerPoint to the committee. The PowerPoint is on file with the County Clerk's Office.

9. Committee Response to Vice Chair's Address

Chair Schroeder opened the floor for members to respond to item #8. Lisa Sherman, Finance Director/Interim County Administrator offered comments and points of clarification on county sales tax. Discussion followed regarding funding options, purpose of committee, extension of current plan, Brown County Library bill, and general comments.

10. Discuss Changes for the Oconto County Library Services Plan 2025-2029

Committee discussed plan structure. Pytleski explained the Library Plan life cycle and funding mechanisms. Plan structure, apportionment and distribution options, levy limits and sales tax options were discussed. Request for Bitter's motion to be on the next agenda.

11. Public Comment

The following addressed the committee: Linda McKenna, Mike Beyer, Tom Thielke, Tracy Vreeke (read recommendations and FAQ's as requested at the 02/12/2024 meeting), Connie Meyer, Bonnie Hearley, Patrick Scanlan, and Ben Pytleski.

12. Identify Future Agenda Items

The committee identified the following future agenda ideas.

1. Discussion and possible action for a consolidated library system
2. Current structure with changes to funding options
3. Optional use of sales tax; Sherman to report on this option
4. Work group reports
5. Input from Oconto County Librarians

Joan Denis out of attendance.

13. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken) – None.

14. Set Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Library Planning Committee is Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Small work groups will held in the LEC on March 26th (Bitters, Denis, Schroeder) to discuss the option of consolidation and April 30th topic to be determined. No quorum will be present.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Elbe/Patenaude to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 p.m. The motion was voted on and carried.