



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Thursday, October 6, 2005

4:30 PM

Madison Public Library
201 W. Mifflin St., Rm. 201

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, Ann L. Falconer, David L. Wallner, Theodore C. Widder, III and Gregory Markle

Excused: William C. Keys and Barbara J. Karlen

Also Present: Benno, Grogan, Dimick, Sawyer, Olson, Froistad

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A correction was noted in item VI "Financial Report". Change "Mr." Dimick to "Ms." Dimick

**A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Taft, Jr., to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by acclamation.**

III. CORRESPONDENCE

The letter from President Widder to the County Executive re the Dane County Library Services budget for 2006 and the DCLS reimbursement programs was included in the board packet. We have had informal word that the county will fund the figure requested. Mr. Widder received a letter from the mayor thanking him for sending the letter to Ms. Falk.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

V. BOARD INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A press release from the Capital Times titled "Art Work Goes to the Dogs" was distributed. Artist S. V. Medaris currently has a new show titled "The Lives of Farm Dogs" at the Central Library. It was noted that "Big Tiny," Ms. Medaris' popular chicken painting, will be displayed here again later in the year.

The 2005 Public Library Data Service Report was reviewed. This compares MPL to 20 similar public libraries. MPL ranks very well.

The 2005 HAPLR (Hennen's American Public Library Ratings) rankings have been published. MPL came in 5th in its population category. (We were ranked 3rd last year.) Only two other Wisconsin libraries made the rankings--Brown Deer and Middleton.

Last month Ms. Dimick was charged with writing a press release describing the budget cuts MPL was facing for 2006. Before releasing it, she checked with the mayor's office. They indicated she might want to hold off; the cuts might not be as bad as originally

feared. As a result, the press release was not issued.

Samples of the beautiful books from the "60 Books, 60 Libraries" project were passed around. The books created by the Bone Folders' Guild, a local artists' group specializing in making books and creating book art, will be available for circulation at the beginning of the Book Festival. These books are blank journals that patrons are invited to fill up.

Mr. Taft was very impressed with the amount and nature of input from MPL in the Book Festival. Librarian Mary Knapp is very involved and does an excellent job.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

We have unofficial information from the mayor's office that some of the supplemental initiatives we requested will be funded. These include the funding to maintain library hours during the week at the bigger branches and the Central Library. Funding is not being restored for Youth Services hours, salary savings, the materials budget or Sunday hours at Central.

Staff is considering ways to keep Youth Services open the three evenings the Central Library is open. This might be able to be done by staffing it with a combination of library page/security guard. The fiscal impact would be minimal. This item will be discussed again next month.

There was general agreement that the Board would like to pursue an amendment to the budget to restore Sunday hours. The cost is \$60,000.

A motion was made by Markle, seconded by Wallner, to support reinstatement of funding for Sunday hours for the Central Library for 2006. The motion passed by acclamation.

Board members were encouraged to contact their respective alders, particularly those serving on the Board of Estimates to elicit their support.

We are looking at some significant unbudgeted expenses for the Central Library yet this year. The Badgerlink Converged Network, the upgraded high speed statewide network that libraries, universities, and schools use to access the Internet, requires upgraded equipment in the Central library. The network requires a new "hub" room and recabling of the whole building. The total cost could be in the six figures. To keep costs at a minimum, the work will be functional, not aesthetic. We will have to request the funds be taken from the contingency fund. More information will be available at next month's meeting.

The ruling on the labor contracts for 2004/2005 has been issued. The arbitrator ruled against the city. The city had budgeted 2% for salary increases beginning in July of 2004 and July 2005. The settlement is for 2 1/2% beginning in January of each year. We don't know yet what impact this will have on our 2005 budget, or the 2006 personnel budget.

VII. MPL STAFFING REPORT AND COMPARISON

MPL statistics from 1999-2004 were reviewed. Over that period of time we opened one new branch and circulation increased nearly 60%. Staff increased from 131.7 to 154.4 FTEs. Professional staff increased only .8; support staff increased 7.1. The largest increase was in hourly staff--14.9. This is due to the number of holds patrons are placing and the volume of library materials being handled daily.

It was suggested that these statistics be included with a two-three paragraph narrative

to the Council and Mayor to support the request for Sunday hours funding. It will show how well the library has been managed in the face of a substantial increase in demand. Include a statement re the opening of the Ashman Branch during this time and a tie-in of some individual branch statistics as a way to connect the alders to their branches. Also include portions of the PLDS comparison report of 20 similar libraries and MPL (list the library names, headings and MPL's stats and rankings, and pertinent output rankings).

Ms. Falconer left at 5:20 p.m.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, David L. Wallner, Theodore C. Widder, III and Gregory Markle

Excused: William C. Keys, Barbara J. Karlen and Ann L. Falconer

VIII. MEETING ROOM POLICY REVIEW

Meeting room usage has decreased at Central since Overture construction began. Income generated from the Central meeting room rentals is \$179.80 to date for 2005. Only state and federal governmental units and the university are charged. Staff will determine how much it costs the library to provide the service. An updated policy will be brought back for discussion at the November meeting.

IX. APPROVAL OF 2006 DANE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE AGREEMENT

Palm moved, seconded by Wallner, to approve the 2006 Dane County Library Services Agreement. Motion passed by acclamation.

X. APPROVAL OF 2006 INTERSYSTEM RESOURCE LIBRARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN MPL AND SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN LIBRARY SYSTEM

Palm moved, seconded by Wallner, to approve the 2006 Southwest Wisconsin Library System Agreement. Motion passed by acclamation.

XI. FRIENDS' UPDATE

A celebration will be held at the Alicia Ashman Branch October 15 marking the 5th anniversary of its opening.

XII. FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Sequoia fund raising auction will be held October 9 at the Nakoma Golf Club.

XIII. SOUTH CENTRAL LIBRARY SYSTEM UPDATE

SCLS staff and board members had their first meeting to create the SCLS Foundation. The Foundation will be charged with raising money to provide expertise to member libraries in their own fund development processes, to fund cutting edge items member libraries think are important and aren't governmentally funded, and to support databases libraries have to purchase.

Peter Hamon is retiring December 31. The selection committee is working on a revised job description.

XIV. DANE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE

The consultants from Himmel and Wilson were introduced at the All Board meeting. They discussed alternatives and what types of focus groups they might have.

XV. FACILITIES UPDATE

City Real Estate has not finished its study on the Kenton Peter proposal.

Real Estate is still waiting for the response to the proposed Sequoya Branch project Letter of Intent. Joe Stepnik has reported that the owner is asking that the City cover construction interest, which will be a major issue.

XVI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Planning - No report

Personnel - A meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m., November 3 at the Meadowridge Branch Library following the Library Board Meeting. A Board self evaluation will be completed. Committee members are Palm, Taft, Karlen, Widder and Markle.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Hernandez, seconded by Markle, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.