

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## LIBRARY BOARD

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

### HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

The Hennepin County Library Board met Wednesday, June 28, 2017, at the Ridgedale Library, Robert H. Rohlf meeting room.

#### ATTENDEES

**Present:** Katherine Blauvelt, Caitlin Cahill, Chris Damsgard, Tim Dolan, Sandy Johnson, Margaret Ligon, Samuel Neisen, and Erin Vrieze Daniels.

**Hennepin County Staff:** Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Director Lois Langer Thompson, Shannon Adkins, Laurie Brickley, Johannah Genett, Lois Lenroot-Ernt, Janet Mills, Shira Naharit, Nancy Palmer, Laurie Schuelein, Tracy Thompson, and Ali Turner.

**Public:** None.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chris Damsgard called the Hennepin County Library Board meeting of June 28, 2017, to order at 5:01 p.m., and welcomed all in attendance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Caitlin Cahill made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Samuel Neisen. Motion passed.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

Margy Ligon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 24, 2017, and accept donations; seconded by Katherine Blauvelt. Motion passed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE

- **Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel, District 5**

Commissioner Debbie Goettel of District 5 took office in January 2017. She represents Bloomington, Eden Prairie, and Richfield; libraries in her district include Augsburg Park, Eden Prairie, Oxboro, and Penn Lake. A champion of our suburban communities and libraries, Comm. Goettel served as the mayor of Richfield for ten years and on numerous local and regional planning bodies prior to her election.

Commissioner Goettel thanked the Board for being invited. She represents Hennepin County on the MELSA board. She spoke of libraries changing and her commitment to listening to communities talk

#### Library Board

Adja K. Kaba Ann | Katherine Blauvelt, Vice President | Caitlin Cahill | Chris Damsgard, President | Tim Dolan  
Barbara Fenton | Jonathan Gaw | Sandy Johnson | Margy Ligon | Samuel Neisen, Secretary | Erin Vrieze Daniels

#### Library Director

Lois Langer Thompson



about what they need and want to see a library be. She would like to expand what the definition of a library is and will support innovative and progressive ideas of the Library Board, staff, and the community. Programs she would like to see the Library maintain and grow include support for health and human services, homework help, makerspaces with new technology, and programs and services that help entrepreneurs. The commissioner sees libraries as welcoming and safe spaces for immigrants and she would like to see the Library expand services to new immigrants for housing, credit, entrepreneurship, and career and jobs support.

Commissioner Goettel is looking forward to the work the Library is going to do and what the Library will bring forward in the 2018 budget request.

Katherine Blauvelt acknowledged how intentional Commissioner Goettel and her office has been in attending meetings and being a champion for the Library and thanked her for her support. The Library Board thanked the commissioner for attending.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### • **Library, Community and County Updates**

County Board Briefing, June 1, 2017: Thanked board member Margy Ligon for attending. PowerPoint and supporting documents from presentation were provided in Library Board packet. Presenters had a great discussion with the County Board on Library preservation and sustainability. Presented building a framework for maintaining and upgrading library buildings based on use rather than a specific number of years. Overall goal to be responsive and equitable.

Red Blue Discussions: Red Blue discussions are facilitated discussions where people can come together as a community and learn to have a conversation with people with opposing viewpoints. The discussions create a safe place where all ideas are welcome. The discussions were created by Bill Doherty, a professor at UMN. Director Thompson will be meeting with a group of staff from across 9 different libraries and Bill Doherty to begin planning Red Blue discussions for HCL.

Katherine Blauvelt noted she will send information on foundations she is familiar with that are interested in supporting this topic.

Urban Libraries Council meeting – May 2017: Director Thompson attended the Urban Libraries Council meeting in Washington D.C. in May. The Director reported that all libraries are working to define equity and social justice in a way that is inclusive and defines our role. She had a rich discussion with sixteen directors from across the country.

American Libraries Association – 2017 annual conference: Director Thompson spoke on a panel about extending access with non-staffed reserve pickup. HCL's "All Are Welcome Here" campaign was featured as part of Bibliotheca's booth and included quotes from HCL Directors over the past one hundred years.

Capital Projects: Attended the Southeast Community Engagement meeting that was held on June 7. Edina Library is currently closed, reopening late summer 2017. Ridgedale Library will close July 9, patrons will be able to access reserves in the former book store. Director Thompson introduced intern, Shannon Adkins, who will be working on a project and collecting data for Capital Projects.

Employee Recognition: HCL had three winners in the Hennepin County Employee Recognition Program: Kelli Koob, Employee Engagement Award, Bob Noyes, Customer Service Award, and Tony Hirt, Maureen Millea Smith, Dillon Young, Jody Wurl, and Sara Zettervall – Diversity and Inclusion Action Award.

Employees were recognized by the County on June 27. The Library Board will formally recognize employees later this year.

HCL received three awards at ALA this year.

Robert Rohlf: Former HCL Director Robert H. Rohlf passed away on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Director Thompson attended his funeral service on Saturday, June 17. Director Thompson noted that his leadership made HCL a national leader.

- **2018 Library Operating and Capital Budget**

Director Thompson requested the Library Board provide their recommendations for the 2018 Library operating and capital budget. She advised that the Board focus on outcomes rather than dollars and to make sure the services that we are funding can help move outcomes forward. David Hough has asked for attention to reducing disparities.

Director Thompson outlined that the Library will be asking for a full time FTE to be a Pathways Coordinator. If approved, the Library Pathways program will train a cohort of individuals who will be available as current positions become vacant. This will increase our ability to have a more diverse and inclusive workforce. It will also help the Library fill positions faster as program participants are trained and ready to start as positions open.

The pilot program can be sustained for at least four years, using interest from library trust funds. If successful, the program will be built into base budget over several years.

- **Library Services Overview, Janet Mills**

Library Services is comprised of staff and services of 41 libraries plus Outreach Services. Outreach Services staff bring the library to anyone facing barriers to using a library building such as at home patrons who cannot get to the library due to illness, disability or visual impairment, and also residents of correction and treatment facilities in Hennepin County.

A team of library services staff are piloting use of the Project Outcome tools. Project Outcome is an initiative managed by PLA to help public libraries understand and share the true impact of essential library services & programs. Project Outcome is designed to give libraries simple tools & supportive resources to collect data to support this work.

Library staff work in collaboration to achieve the Library's mission to "nourish minds, transform lives and build community together."

#### [PRESIDENT'S REPORT](#)

- **Announcements**

Next month's Library Board meeting will take place at Brooklyn Park Library, exciting to see new facility.

- **Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met on June 14, 2017.

The committee reviewed 2017 meeting dates and proposed to not hold a board meeting in August 2017 due to lack of full agenda, and to move any existing items to an adjacent month. The committee also suggested moving the October Library Board meeting from Ridgedale Library to Minneapolis Central Library due to construction at Ridgedale.

President Damsgard made a motion to approve changes; seconded by Margy Ligon. Motion passed.

President Damsgard asked all board members, to keep soliciting and thinking of questions to influence future agendas based on their experiences with the Library and in other walks of life.

- **Patron Use of Library Spaces Policy, Janet Mills**

Director Thompson acknowledged the work of Lois Lenroot-Ernt in making our policies accessible and understandable by our patrons. Lois Lenroot-Ernt will be bringing suggestions and fulsome update in July. Removed associated policy and law “Hennepin County. Workplace Violence Policy” due to public not having access to a staff policy.

Staff are encouraged to use policy as a conversation starter or the beginnings of a dialogue with patron for expectations of patron and staff. Staff trying to provide balance for patrons. We want all people to feel welcome in Library spaces and be able to connect and interact with each other. Staff are incredibly skilled with balancing differing needs of patrons, especially when actions are going beyond what we want – staff are able to change behavior while also encouraging patron to use the library.

Katherine Blauvelt asked about language used in the policy around calling legal authorities, citing that it might affect some communities and populations disproportionately. Director Thompson acknowledged the need to review that language. Library staff will submit updated wording to the Board.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Code of Conduct for Library Board members – Caitlin Cahill**

Caitlin Cahill reminded the Board of their concerns from the last meeting on the Code of Conduct for Library Board members and acknowledged the work of Lois Lenroot-Ernt in confirming associated statues and policies are up to date. She proposed the Board moves forward with no significant changes.

Katherine Blauvelt made a motion for approval, seconded by Erin Vrieze Daniels. Motion passed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Margy Ligon: The University of Minnesota Libraries were awarded the IMLS award, would like to formally congratulate them as a fellow system.
- Samuel Neisen: Summarized his experience attending the annual American Library Association conference in Chicago, IL. Noted HCL’s reputation in the community really stood out when speaking with vendors and attendees. Found the scale and scope of ALA impressive, with Brene Brown’s talk on empathy and the idea of personal leadership to be the highlight of the event.
- Sandy Johnson: Summarized her experience attending ALA conference. Attended sessions that showed the importance of getting a cross section of participation to move libraries forward.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, Caitlin Cahill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.; seconded by Sandy Johnson. Motion passed. The next monthly meeting of the Hennepin County Library Board will be held at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at Brooklyn Park Library, Mississippi River Room, 8500 W. Broadway Ave., Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.

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Samuel Neisen, Secretary