

Bridges Library System Board Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021

PRESENT: Jean Yeomans, Jim Heinrich, Larry Nelson, Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Howard Pringle, Dick Nawrocki, Joan Fitzgerald, Rose Sura, Amy Reichert

EXCUSED: Nancy Wilhelm

OTHERS: Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director; Mellanie Mercier, Bridges Library System Automation Coordinator and Assistant Director; Angela Meyers, Bridges Library System Youth and Inclusive Services Coordinator; Bruce Gay, Executive Director Waukesha Public Library and Resource Library Representative; Nan Champe, Pewaukee Public Library Director and APL representative; Alex Klosterman, Waukesha County Senior Financial Analyst; Meg Henke, Bridges Library System Department Executive Assistant; Mr. Tom Fick, President of the Dwight Foster Public Library Board of Trustees.

Call to order: Linda Ager, the Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. via Zoom with optional attendance at the Bridges Library System Office in Waukesha.

Introductions: Introductions were completed after the call to order.

Comments from the Public: Mr. Tom Fick thanked the Bridges Staff and Board for all they are doing to assist member libraries throughout the COVID pandemic. His purpose for attending today's meeting was to learn about what other libraries are doing about mask requirements at their libraries considering the recently changed CDC guidelines.

Correspondence: None.

Meeting Minutes: A Yeomans/Biermeier motion to approve the minutes of the April 2021 meeting as presented passed unanimously.

ACTION ON THE BILLS REPORT

Bills Reports: Karol shared that we purchased an OWL teleconferencing camera and microphone in anticipation of future hybrid meetings. Additionally, the System entered into a Zoom enterprise license agreement offering this as another cooperative purchase providing expanded features and services for users resulting in a tremendous cost savings annually. A Heinrich/Reichert motion to approve the monthly invoices for funds 210 and 215 for May 2021 as submitted passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: Karol stated that a footnote was added to the Fund 215 report to indicate a miscellaneous operating expense due to the carryover of the Mobile App purchase order from 2020. A Heinrich/Sura motion to accept the financial report ending April 30, 2021 for funds 210 and 215 passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Bridges Director's Report: Karol reported that that the CDC has changed their guidelines on mask wearing in consideration of the significant numbers of vaccinated populations. Directors are meeting with their local boards to consider potential changes to local policy. Some are adopting a recommend vs. require policy for both staff and patrons. Some Boards will continue to monitor on a monthly basis. It

has been determined that it is legal to ask an employee if they are fully vaccinated. The directors had an initial database selection discussion at the May APL meeting to more effectively align with budget planning. They have indicated they would like to maintain the current offerings in 2022. Watertown Public Library will close for three weeks beginning on Monday, May 24th to make the move following their renovation and expansion project.

Bridges Staff: Mellanie Mercier reported that \$7.11 billion in ECF (Emergency Connectivity Funds) are available nationwide. The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program will provide funding for schools and libraries to meet the otherwise unmet connectivity needs of students, school staff, and library patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding supports hotspots with data plans; laptops and tablets. The 45 day application window will open in June. App usage statistics include 3,098 users, 5,100 holds placed and 12,900 searches. Meg Henke reported the Zoom enterprise license rollout has been completed and the 47 users are in the process of converting their accounts.

APL: Nan Champe reported APL met on May 14th. They celebrated Barbara Draeger's 38-year career wishing her farewell and best wishes after serving the patrons of the New Berlin Public Library, most recently as their Director. Natalie Beacom the deputy director has been hired as the new Director at New Berlin and she begins June 1. They talked about mask requirements within their libraries as well as in person programming opportunities. Many are holding summer programs virtually and plan to resume more in-person programming in fall. Next, they talked about 2022 database selections considering the probable flat budget for 2022. HelpNow usage has been low and this offering may not continue past 2021. Karol Kennedy reported that the \$75,000 in Hoopla funds provided by Bridges will likely run dry around October 2021. Directors are in favor of local support to cover the remaining expenses through the end of 2021. She further commented that the 2021 annual report forms will have changes and libraries will start collecting this information requested at a federal level. PLSR has provided progress reports on various recommendations. Shawn Carlson and Abby Armour will remain our WPLC Steering Committee representatives.

Resource Library: Bruce Gay reported the first-floor renovation project construction will begin in June and run through February 2022. Highlights of the phased project construction will provide for a dedicated Maker Space, larger meeting room and adding fireplace to the Carnegie section of the library. Waukesha Public Library will continue the Big Reads program in 2021 funded by the library without an NEA grant. This year's title, *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes, it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Apple Harvest Festival will be the kickoff for this year's program.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Bader Philanthropies Grant 2021-2022 – Angela Meyers reported her grant proposal has been approved. The grant will total \$35,000, spending \$25,000 in 2021 and \$10,000 in 2022. The funds will be used to coordinate social engagement opportunities for persons with memory loss or dementia as well as their caregivers and family. This grant will bring StoryCorps to the Library Memory Project with a purpose of creating “conversations of oral history” between these people. Year one will focus on training and planning and begin in early fall 2021. Year two will begin the interview process at 15 locations with a goal of interviewing and creating 200 stories in 2022. This will be hosted on the Library Memory Project Website and potentially shared with the Library of Congress. Angela further reported the Library Memory Project is growing as Waukesha Public Library and all libraries in Jefferson County have joined

the group. A Biermeier/Sura motion to accept the 2021-2022 Bader Philanthropies Grant totaling \$35,000 as presented passed unanimously.

Next meeting: **June 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. as a hybrid meeting via ZOOM** with public attendance location to be determined. Meg will poll libraries for availability of their public meeting rooms large enough to accommodate the Board.

At 5:18 p.m., a Biermeier/Heinrich motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:

Meg Henke
Administrative Specialist

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Reichert
Board Secretary