

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

HARRIET ELLIOTT
JOHN MONAHAN
MARY SCHWANKY
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
DIANA YOUNG



Sussex County

DELAWARE
sussexcountye.gov

(302) 855-7890 T
(302) 855-7895 F

Sussex County Library Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

VIA A ZOOM MEETING: REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please send email request to Kathy Graybeal at kgraybeal@sussexcountye.gov for login.

In attendance: Diana Young, LAB President; John Monahan, LAB Vice President, Mary Schwanky and Steve Schwartz, LAB members; Annie Norman, State Librarian; Carol Fitzgerald and Theo Loppatto, Friends of DE Libraries members; Chandler Parr, WRDE; Sue Keefe, Kay Hudson, Bonnie Elliott, Mary Brittingham, Valerie O'Neal, Alison Miller, Jerry Keiser, Karen Johnson, Susan Upole, Jill DiPaolo, Jessica Webb, Gail Bruce, Kelly Kline, Mary Hopkins and Pam Batten, Sussex library directors and staff; Rachel Lynch, Assistant County Librarian; Kathy Graybeal, Count Librarian.

Call to Order: Diana Young – Call to Order at 9:32a

Adoption of the Wednesday, September 16, 2020 Agenda. Motion - John Monahan; 2nd – Diana Young

Approve Wednesday, August 19, 2020 Minutes. Motion – Diana Young; 2nd Steve Schwartz

Announcement: The 2020 Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference will be virtual. Registration is open now. Visit <https://www.arsl.org/2020-conference> to read sessions descriptions + register.

Sussex County Libraries

- Report: library service throughout the pandemic. Lewes is in contact with the State Election Office re: housing ballot boxes in their lobby. Dependent upon successful staged reopening.
- Report: technology access equity across Sussex County. Thanks again to LAB members. Now in Phase III of Rural Wireless Broadband Initiative. All 15 tower locations are in and live across west. Funded by \$252,000 from DOE to accelerate effort. \$314,000 provided by DOE CARES Act to accelerate the onboarding. Bloosurf is state access provider; Sussex County now has 2 providers. Unclear what that means at the moment. Assuming that means installs since they are “adding 250 homes/month” in underserved areas. Priority is given to families with children requiring remote learning access. This is a 15-month commitment. The rate in that time is \$20/month for the myfi. Applications for vouchers to cover this expense is available under the CARES Act. However, it is unclear whether the school districts are managing the voucher program or if all have agreed upon the qualifying criteria.

- Report: E-Measures Survey for Counting Opinions – Compilation and analysis forthcoming.
- Update: library reopening. Most are open/opening over next few weeks with limited access and limited hours. Too unpredictable at the moment to report here. Considering curbside some days, computer access + browsing others; senior hours? Kid hours? Frankford had their Coffee with a Cop event outdoors.

DDL/Steering/DE Libraries/COL

- Report: DE Division of Libraries COVID-19 Guide. IMLS “working” on definitions for reporting. Reference Rachel’s September 9, 2020 System Meeting questions: Do we need to collect new data? Tweak definitions to include virtual data? RE: social media – do we count clicks as one thing and engagements as another? Does everyone use the same social media or does that matter? Change the Independent library formula? Will data be machine-generated or collected by humans?
- Update: Library Construction in FY 2022 – outdoor spaces. It has been proposed to enter applications to the Bond Bill for extending services via outdoor space development/upgrades. Each library is able to apply. Fully supported by Department of State Secretary Bullock + Deputy Secretary Stewart, the total request cannot exceed \$60,000. As construction funds, this still requires a match by the library. Potential for a \$120,000 project. Question asked: do tents qualify? No answer provided. Katie McDonough is working with library space consultant, Margaret Sullivan.
- Update note: the COL approved the \$250,000 request by Wilmington Institute to replace their boiler/boiler system. They want to move to solar.
- Report: Council on Libraries. Nick with Inspiration Space has coined the phrase “virtual necessities platforms” to address some of the permanent changes in place/needed to effectively serve during and after the pandemic.
- Report note: DPIL registrations continue to rise! From 4,000 week of August 23, 2020 to 9,500 as of September 3, 2020. Local groups are stepping forward to be involved (e.g.: Rotary). There is concern that there are no Spanish language titles included. Marie Cunningham is in discussion with Scholastic about a large purchase. The DLC will provide/distribute them.
- Report note: Library Card Sign-up Month: yard signs delivered to each...a lot of yard signs. None are in Spanish.

Next meeting date: November 18, 2020 at 9:30am via the Zoom platform. There is no LAB meeting in October 2020.

Adjourn. Motion – Steve Schwartz; 2nd – Mary Schwanky.