

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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Sussex County Library Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

10:00a – 11:30a

West Complex: Large Conference Room

Attending: Diana Young, John Monahan, Steve Schwartz, Mary Schwanky with LAB; Kathy Graybeal, County Librarian; Rachel Lynch, Assistant County Librarian; Catharine Kramer, Greenwood Library Assistant Director; Valerie O'Neal, Greenwood Library staff.

Call to Order by Diana Young at 10:00am.

Adoption of the Wednesday, December 18, 2019 Agenda. Motion: Diana Young; 2nd: John Monahan.

Approval of the Wednesday, November 20, 2019 Minutes. Motion: John Monahan; 2nd Diana Young.

Sussex County Libraries

- Update: Greenwood Library. On Tuesday, 11/26/2019, the building was flooded; the forced water main cracked. Damage seems to be contained to carpeting and 2 particle board paperback racks. Staff are housed temporarily at the West Complex and Milton Library. An early February re-opening is anticipated. Some programming has been arranged off-site in Greenwood.
- Update: LAB member reports.
 - Mary: attended the Nov Board Meeting in Lewes. Met with Lea and has better understanding of issues and financial problems. Noted that homeschoolers are using the library. Diana commented that Delmar has after-school help and offers meals each weekday.
 - Mary: Lea said it would be helpful to have a clearer idea of the role of the LAB with the Independents and County libraries.
 - John: Visited South Coastal to "let them see my face." He noted the "tremendous improvement" to the Reading Garden.
 - John: he is impressed with the Rehoboth Library's emailed monthly newsletter. Staff now required per job descriptions to write grants. Another step in the commitment by the Board to make/keep staff salaries consistent with the County.
 - John: LAB role is to speak to the needs of libraries, the need for more funding...everyone uses the library.

- ___ Mary: Met with Sandy Spence, a legislative watchdog for the League of Women Voters. Mary will join her to see “how things work.” We need an elevator speech for LAB.
- ___ Steve: He wondered about how people spend their time. People spend time on what they like to do. Some are working on increasing the pie, different weights, etc. But, it seems they are looking for ways to better compete rather than work together.
- ___ Update: Independent library work groups re: FY 2021.
 - ___ Discussed notes from Oct 17, 2019 meeting that included explanation of the funding formula by Gina Jennings and a brief Independent library funding history by Kathy Graybeal.
- ___ Discussion of the Agreement between the Independent libraries and Sussex County.
 - ___ Per Steve’s question, Kathy noted that before this agreement, the only requirements of the Independents around funding were financial reports and monthly statistics.
 - ___ The Agreement has been a group effort with Kay Wheatley and other members of the Independent Library Group.
 - ___ LAB members voted to accept the agreement. Formal recommendation of the Agreement to the County Librarian will take place electronically.
 - ___ Mary noted that Kay Wheatley deserves special recognition for her support and resources.

DDL/Steering/DE Libraries/COL

- Library Town Meeting report. John was impressed with the mapping and focus on importance of libraries. Need to make sure our voice is at the top. The partner “open house” benefited all parties. “I didn’t know libraries did that!” And, I didn’t know [insert partner] did that!” Per John: “We LEAD and we serve. Not the other way around.”
- Kathy met with Annie Norman, State Librarian, and Courtney Stewart, Deputy Secretary of State, to emphasize the necessity for some sort of MOA, etc. with vast number of partners being pulled into libraries. All need to understand and identify the benefits to the library mission, to be a partner, in these arrangements. No agreement from Annie or Courtney.

Closing discussion centered on the role of the LAB, finding a new member for Sam Wilson’s District 2.

John also shared a handout from Hennepin County Library which Kathy and Rachel will share at the System Meeting in January 2020.

Next meeting date: January 15, 2019 at 10:00am in the Large Conference Room at the Sussex County Administration West Complex.