

APPROVED

MINUTES

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
Kent District Library Comstock Park Branch
3943 West River Dr. NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321
Thursday, March 18, 2010 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Shirley Bruursema, Charles Fry, Fran Gilcrest, Vickie Hockstra, Charles R. Myers, Scott E. Petersen, Carol Simpson

Absent: Denise VanEck

Guests: Brian Bosak, *UAW International Representative*
Dick Butler, *Attorney – Law Weathers*
Victor Matthews, *Plainfield Charter Township Liaison*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shirley Bruursema called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Ms. Simpson moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Support: Supported by Mr. Fry.

RESULT: Motion carried.

IV. LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS – None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

VI. BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

Nancy Mulder, Comstock Park Branch Manager, provided a brief history of the branch. She noted that the renovations to the downtown Comstock Park area as well as the branch's proximity to a park and local businesses have made the library a popular destination for patrons. This also means that the branch has become busier with a 10% increase in both visitors and circulation between 2008 and 2009.

VII. FINANCE REPORTS – February 2010

Motion: Mr. Fry moved to receive and file the February 2010 finance reports.

Support: Supported by Ms. Gilcrest.

RESULT: Motion carried.

VIII. LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE REPORT

Library Director Martha Esch noted the following motions items which were approved at the March 11, 2010 LLC Board meeting:

- Purchase of a software module for the Millennium online catalog which allows reciprocal borrowing limits to be implemented by LLC member libraries. A committee will be formed to determine rules for implementation. Director Esch noted that this software has the potential to lessen staff workload. She will keep the Board informed.
- Undertake a count of delivery bags in April which will determine delivery days for member libraries.

Director Esch noted that an attorney presented information at the meeting about a proposed amendment to MI Public Act 89 of 1977 which would provide a cooperative board the authority to dissolve a library cooperative. Without such an amendment, a cooperative would close, but would remain an entity and may not have control of its assets.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2010 (open and closed session minutes)

Motion: Ms. Simpson moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2010 including closed session minutes from that meeting.

Support: Supported by Mr. Myers.

RESULT: Motion carried.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – February 2010

Library Director Esch highlighted the following items from her report:

- In an effort to gather comparative information for a cost/benefit assessment of membership in the Lakeland Library Cooperative (LLC), Director Esch and Grand Rapids Public Library Director Marcia Warner met with Rick Hulsey, Interim Director of the Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative (SMLC). Unlike LLC, the SMLC provides minimal services and passes on the bulk of collected state aid money directly to member libraries.
- A 2009 reciprocal borrowing summary was distributed to the Board indicating that KDL is a net lender to other LLC member libraries at a rate of over four items lent for each item KDL borrows.

Trustee Fry reported on action of the KDL Fund Board noting the approval of expenditures from the Annual Fund to further KDL's early literacy efforts. These included an Imagination Station at the new Kentwood branch library, two additional early literacy computer stations, a Tunes for Tots Summer Reading Club program, and 1,500 *Play, Grow, Read to your Baby* kits for first-time parents in the KDL service area.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Areas

Director Esch noted that subsequent to sending the Board packet, KDL received a letter from Pierson Township requesting termination of its library service contract with KDL. Director Esch introduced Dick Butler, KDL's attorney, and noted that since his firm also represents Ensley Township he will only address the contract with Pierson Township. Mr. Butler indicated that two considerations facing the Board are how to manage contract service areas in general and how to handle the termination request from Pierson Township.

Regarding contract areas in general, this matter arose in 2009 with Lakeland Library Cooperative's (LLC's) new "Underfunded Contract Service Area Policy" and the implementation of new State Aid rules. The new LLC policy, which takes effect July 1, 2010, stipulates that member libraries provide a restricted card to patrons living in a contract area that supports a member library with less than the equivalent of 0.3 mil on local taxable value. The new State Aid rules stipulate, however, that in order for public libraries to receive state aid they cannot offer different levels of service for patrons residing in the legal service area versus those living in a contract service area. Herrick District Library is currently challenging the Library of Michigan in court concerning this State Aid rule. For KDL, the consideration is whether to abide by the LLC policy come July 1st and thereby risk losing State Aid revenue or terminate the contract with the service area and lose penal fine revenue.

Regarding Pierson Township's request to terminate the service contract, the matter is two-fold. First, the letter does not state an effective date of termination. Second, it requests to enter into a new contract with KDL whereby Pierson Township will assign a 50 percent share of penal fines to KDL, but will not pay the equivalent of 0.3 mil on taxable value.

The Board discussed the matter and agreed that of first importance is providing a response to the Pierson Township letter.

Motion: Mr. Fry moved to direct staff and legal council to prepare and submit a letter to Pierson Township to address the termination date of the contract favorable to KDL and release the Township from prior obligation.

Support: Supported by Mr. Myers.

RESULT: Motion carried.

APPROVED

B. KDL Policy Manual – Section 2: Circulation (Policies 2.1 – 2.6)

Motion: Mr. Myers moved to approve the proposed changes to Policies 2.1 – 2.6 as presented.

Support: Supported by Mr. Petersen.

RESULT: Motion carried.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Patron Services Department Report

Jon VanderPloeg, KDL Patron Services Manager, reported that since its inception in September 2009, the Patron Services Department has handled over 33,000 telephone calls for the system. On average, they handle 80% of calls without the need to forward patrons to a branch. The result is that branch staff is able to provide more uninterrupted service to in-person visitors. The benefit for telephone patrons is greater access to service since calls are being taken during all hours KDL is open, not just local branch hours.

XIII. LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS – None

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Bosak, UAW International Representative, introduced himself and encouraged the trustees to contact him should they have any questions concerning the tentative labor agreement. He also expressed concern regarding the Board's decision to discuss the Director's compensation at the February meeting instead of March as originally motioned.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – None

XVI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Simpson: Noted that the presentation at the Sand Lake/Nelson Township Branch by local author Tom Rademacher was well-received with over 50 people in attendance.

Ms. Bruursema: Indicated that she attended a meeting at Caledonia Township and that the accepted bid for construction of the new Caledonia Township library came in one million dollars under budget. Groundbreaking for the new library should occur in April.

XVII. MEETING DATES:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2010 – KDL Grandville Branch – 4:30 p.m.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Myers moved for adjournment at 5:57 p.m.

Support: Supported by Ms. Hoekstra.

RESULT: Motion carried.


CAROL JEAN SIMPSON, KDL BOARD SECRETARY