

Winnefox Library System Strategic Planning Committee Minutes
July 31st, 2007

Chair Tasha Saecker called meeting to order at 2:05. Present were: Mark Arend, Karen Boehning, Christine Carroll, Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Mary Olson, Stephen Proce, Tasha Saecker, Paul Wade, Sara Wilson, & Sandy Zuehlke. Absent were: Marie Boleman and Ken Hall

Chris moved and Sandy seconded approval of the minutes of the June meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Tasha reported on the work of the subcommittee that was looking at the notes from the January meeting. The goals focused on things the entire committee all agreed on. Jeff said it was a good summary of a consensus of the meeting. He asked what do we do now? Use these as a base for setting specific goals. Additional ideas for objectives and goals may come out of Deb's meetings with directors.

The consensus was to aim for no more than 5 or 6 goals. The committee discussed the list and grouped them into areas. Jeff, Mark & Karen will re-word them and send them to the directors in the next week or so.

Jeff & Mark reported that not much has been done on a separate environmental scan. Mark said that much of what he had prepared was incorporated into the staffing report. Jeff reported that the Legislative Audit Bureau is doing a survey and comparison of library system services and suggested we not do our own scan but see what come up with and use it in a review of our plan. Steve said this would be a good idea.

The committee consensus was to draft a comparison of system automation costs but not study other system services. Steve said he thought that most people were interested in automation costs and governance.

Mark passed out the *talking points* sheet prepared for member directors by Deb Wilcox Johnson.

The committee decided to cancel the scheduled August meeting. The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday 25 September in Berlin.

The committee recessed at 2:45 Deb Johnson arrived at 2:53.

She has been reviewing documents from planning committee & other meetings that have been posted online. She feels she has a sense of some of the issues and asked what in particular the committee wants to get out of the meetings and what we'll be doing with the results.

Chris: Our concern is that libraries may be hesitant to voice candid opinions to Winnefox staff. We also want to know what positive things librarians have to say.

Steve: A particular concern is small libraries vs. big ones. How do we make sure the small libraries are represented and can get their opinions out. We're looking at WALs governance to partially address this issue. The mix in Winnefox is different than other systems in that we don't have just one big library and a bunch of small ones. Large libraries have their own resources

and sometimes feel frustrated because they want to do things but can't because of the constraints of a cooperative environment.

Deb: is WALS governance a separate issue and to what extent do they want her to address it.

Steve: we have a subcommittee looking at this. They're looking at the SCLS agreement as a possible model. We would like Deb to gauge how much of an issue this is.

Tasha: communication is an issue; how open & transparent the system is. The dual director is also an issue—is there conflict of interest?

Sandy: feels out of loop sometimes being at the far end of the system. In talking with people at WLA conferences she thinks that a lot of other systems leave something to be desired.

Deb: Her goal in these meetings is to not shape an answer but to make sure everyone talks and see what issues come up. She first asks to see what issues people bring up on their own. If issues mentioned by the committee do not come up she may ask about them to see how general feelings are. But it's all about what comes up naturally.

Paul: doesn't think any big surprises will come up.

Deb: There's an 80/20 rule. A lot of what shows up in the report will be things we already know but there may be a few 'ah-ha' items.

Karen: There aren't a lot of hidden animosities in the county groups. Everyone gets along pretty well.

Deb: what has the response been to the process so far?

Steve: The situation was political charged a couple years ago. Some strong sides were taken & there was some personal animosity. Some people from small libraries were intimidated from speaking about problems & unmet desires because they felt they didn't have the detailed knowledge about issues that others did. Jeff has different style from his predecessor. So Deb will be coming into a system undergoing major change, formally & informally. Some concerns we started with have been addressed & are no longer problems.

Deb: She will start the discussions with local needs and then move to system issues. Do we want feedback on *consensus goals* that were discussed earlier in the meeting?

The consensus was yes. Mark will send out the revised goals for the committee's review and then to Deb & the directors by the end of the week.

Deb: The report won't be transcript. The note taker will capture the words actually used & key phrases. She will draft a thematic report showing what the key themes across groups were and will highlight some specific issues.

Paul moved and Karen 2nd to adjourn at 3:26. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Arend