Library Advisory Council Minutes

July 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Mike Richman.

Present were Mike Richman, Barbara Buchanan, Dan Norris, Paul Putnam, Mike

Charron, Marty Reid, Jennifer Hart, Sara Blow and Tracy Roux for Amber

Fulcher. Linda Goodspeed and Sharon Colvin attended by phone.

Walter Taylor and Paula Stevens were absent, and Amy Olsen had an excused

absence.

Mike Asked Roger Buchanan to read the minutes from the last meeting. They

were approved as read.

Marty told the group that Newsline was up and running again as of July 1. Mike

said he would like to see Bookshare available at the library, and Dan told us

that students were already getting it free.

Marty said that because of a reclassification of jobs we are getting a new

librarian. The job title is Library Consultant to Special Populations. The new

librarian will do the type of outreach Teresa did in the past and will work on

reaching out to more of the disabled populations in Vermont who can use our

library's services.

She said the database will still be maintained, and clients will still request books

from the Vermont library. However, outsourcing the mailing part is being

considered. Sharon said that she visited the Utah library which already handles

the mailing for several states. She said the advantage to our clients would be that

the Utah staff already has an efficient method in place for mailing books. They

also have a much larger number of copies of each book, making it possible to fill

requests more quickly. Also it would take only two more days to get a book than

it takes at present.

Mike disagreed with the outsourcing plan. He said that we should not pay

employees from other states to do what Vermonters are already doing so well for

us. He thought it would be cheaper to hire someone for mailing instead of paying

another library to do the same thing. Mike Charron suggested that we should bid

the job out and determine which method would be cheaper. Dan stated that space

to house the books at the Vermont library is not a problem. He also pointed out

that in ten years more people will be downloading books and students will have

their books transmitted electronically. He also said that as our reading population

becomes more electronically sophisticated, there will be less of a need for mailing

books. Tracy said that libraries should provide training for downloading books.

She also said that more money needs to be spent on procuring large print books.

JENNIFER'S REPORT: Jennifer said the staff is working hard to weed the

cassette books. She has a temp two hours a day who is helping with the cassettes

and mail since the library's printer is not behaving. A narrator from South

Burlington was let go, and Monique Signorat is trying to recruit more people. She has

found two narrators but no monitors. If anyone knows of someone who might be

interested, the job would be two hours a week. There are two books waiting to be

edited, and two Bernie Sanders books will be sent to Perkins for final editing. Eight

books created by the program are already in the catalog and on the web site.

Vermont is one of the first states to use PIMMS, which updates patron and machine

records without the need for additional reporting. Jennifer has also already sent out

the annual report.

Marty said she received a letter from Fred Jones, Director of DVBI, offering

assistance to keep all library services in Vermont. Mike said that some of us

would write letters and do whatever is necessary to work on preventing

outsourcing. Jennifer went to an SRC meeting where she learned that the

Department of Labor is also in favor of keeping jobs in Vermont. She said if the

library outsources mailing, there would be a six-month transition period. Also,

once outsourcing is in place we can't go back to in-state mailing. Sharon said that

Jennifer is not replaceable. She is working both above and below her pay grade

level to get all of the work done. She also said it would take several people to do

the work Jennifer is currently doing. The point was made also that library

services should be available to more people with disabilities.

SATISFACTION SURVEY: Jennifer said that circulation is down a little this

year. 66,975 books were either mailed or downloaded. With regard to the

Vermont library recording program, several books are currently in progress, but

there is trouble with one narrator who doesn't like any of the books to be

recorded.

The following changes were then suggested for the committee's bylaws.

Article II, PURPOSE. Individuals who are blind or visually impaired, persons

who are unable to hold a book because of physical limitations or persons with

other print disabilities.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS. Library services to persons who are blind, visually

impaired, physically disabled or otherwise print disabled.

SECTION 4. Members shall be sought from:

C. The major state agencies/organizations or persons with disabilities, Division

for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Vermont Association for the Blind and

Visually Impaired, Vermont Assistive Technology Program, Vermont Center for

Independent Living.

SECTION 5. After two unexcused absences.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM. The next meeting will be Thursday,

October 20 at the library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Buchanan, Secretary