**Library Advisory Council Minutes**

October 20, 2016

Mike Richman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The following people were present: Amy Olsen, Barbara Buchanan, Dan Norris, Paul Putnam, Walter Taylor, Mike Charron, Sara Blow, Marty Reid, and Mike Richman. Linda Goodspeed and Paula Stevens were absent, and Linda Gustafson resigned.

Mike asked Amy to read the minutes from the July meeting. He then asked Barbara to make the changes in the bylaws. Barbara said she would probably need some help because making the changes would be very visual. The minutes were approved with the agreement that the changes would be made to the bylaws.

**Library Update**: Marty Reid said that because of staff reductions the use of building space in Montpelier would be consolidated. Everyone will move to one floor, which will improve communication. The Library Advancement Division is moving to Berlin, bringing eight or nine more people to the Berlin location. One staff position is going to be reconfigured from this group to help with mailing for the Special Services Library. Because of the reorganization and reallocation of staff the outsourcing of any part of our library services will not be necessary. Because of other changes being made in some of the library’s programs a person has been freed up who can be shifted to this work. Marty said that person can be full-time in about six months. Jennifer Johnson is with our library at least two days a week to help with the mailing, and our temp continues to help as well. Every afternoon there is another staff person who also comes in when needed. Marty reiterated that outsourcing is off the table. Everyone clapped to show their appreciation. Marty then thanked the committee for its input which convinced her that keeping all Special Needs Library services in Vermont was a priority program. Marty then said that the library has hired a new assistant state librarian to head the Library Advancement Division. He is Scott Murphy, and he will start his job on October 31. Scott is coming to us from the South Carolina State Library where he has been for a couple of years. Before that he was the former library director in Milton. He will be overseeing all of the services that go out to our local libraries, including the Special Services Library. Once the Consultant for Special Populations is hired, Scott will also oversee that person. Marty told the committee recruitment will begin in November for someone to take over Jennifer’s job. Marty said that the staff felt lucky that Jennifer is willing to work part-time three days a week until that position is filled. Mike said that he was very glad that the committee didn’t have to go into advocacy mode because we have been working so cooperatively together. He also said that advocacy can create a lot of hard feelings and thanked Marty for listening to the committee’s request. Marty is delighted that all services are staying in Vermont. She said that the work fits well in the library’s mission and she looks forward to having a new person in who will really be able to focus on outreach again. She would love to see usership go up and hopes that new ways will be found to promote the special services offered by our library. Marty said she recently saw an ad on TV for the National Library Service and thought it was very good. Marty also said that there was a site visit from NLS in 2015, and that the library still hasn’t received a copy. She will distribute it when it arrives. Mike said he was looking forward to the new machine which will allow librarians to download books directly to patrons’ machines when they call in for books.

Marty then said that Jennifer is working on trying to streamline some of her work. The library also got a new printer yesterday which was supposed to come in July. Sara said it was very good and very fast. Marty said Fred Jones brought her a box of Newsline posters. She is going to send them along with some Library of Congress brochures to the local libraries so they can start to promote our services in their libraries. Marty said during a biking vacation in Italy she fell and had to visit a pharmacy. She noticed that all their packaging for antiseptics had braille labelling. Mike commented that that was better than what we have here.

Sara said that the Utah State Library is using prisoners to help with editing books. Mike asked if we were going to do this in Vermont. Now that we have our studio it might be doable. Mike said that in the past some prisoners did landscaping work. Mike Charron said how about looking through the courts to find people who were doing community service doing some landscaping and other library services. Amy said that having prisoners might be difficult in the public libraries. Marty said if the prisoners were doing editing, the library could build another recording studio in an appropriate place. Dan said if the prisoners were just editing it would only be necessary for a computer to be installed at the prison. Mike Charron said the corrections facilities are always looking for something for their prisoners to do.

**Changing Members:** Mike said that there are three people who have finished their terms: Walter Taylor, who represented the veterans, Paula Stevens, who represented the southern part of the state, and Linda Gustafson, who represented the children, are leaving because their terms are finished. Amy, as vice president, read the names of the newly nominated candidates: Tom Frank, Bob Lanoue, and Pam Durant. Tom worked for the Blinded Veterans of America and is currently the president of the board at VABVI. Bob was a chef for several years and taught cooking at a high school. He also serves on the VABVI board and has been president of the SRC. Pam has taught many children for VABVI programs. She has also taught music to many children and is a braille reader. All three were voted in for one-year terms. Marty said she would be sending Paula, Walter and Linda thank-you letters, but thanked Walter in person.

Amy wanted to recognize Mike Charron, Dan Norris, Jennifer Hart, Paul Putnam and Tracy Roux for serving on a panel at the Vermont Library Conference in Stowe. They were well received, and Mike said he got many calls later asking for advice. Amy then told the group about the experience the panel had getting to their conference room. There was no accessible route except to go through the kitchens and around to another part of the building. It was ironic that the meeting about accessibility for disabled people was being held in a room where the accessibility was non-existent for the disabled presenters. Mike then commented that when looking for a place to hold a meeting we should always check about the accessibility of the building.

Mike Charron said that for hundreds of years people with disabilities have been treated as second-class citizens. We either have had to enter buildings through the back entrance or the service entrance. He said that people don’t stop to consider the needs of people with disabilities. He also said that he was very pleased that the committee changed its bylaws to include people with disabilities beyond visual impairments. Amy then told us about a situation at the Lanpher Library. One of the library patrons started using a wheelchair. Because of this he could no longer get into the building. Amy got a grant for installing an automatic door and an ADA-compliant parking space. She thanked Mike and Alaina for all the help they provided.

Mike said the next meeting will be Thursday, January 19. It will be held by conference call. He asked for topic suggestions. Dan suggested coming up with a plan for strategic outreach. Marty suggested that we should invite someone from one of our congressional leaders’ offices to learn more about how they can work with us to improve services to the disabled community. Another suggestion was to ask Scott Murphy to speak at the January meeting.

Mike then thanked the people who brought food for the luncheon. Carol prepared a great meatloaf and potatoes, Paul and Dan brought sundaes, Amy brought a salad, and Barbara and Roger brought rolls and coffee snacks.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Buchanan, Secretary