Library Advisory Council Minutes

January 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mike Richman at 10:00 AM. Everyone attended by conference call, and those present were Mike Richman, Jennifer Hart, Sara Blow, Michael Roche, Paul Putnam, Amy Olsen, Dan Norris and Barbara Buchanan. Tracy Roux attended for Amber Fulcher. Jennifer said that Marty Reed would not be attending the meeting. Amy read the minutes from the last meeting, and a motion was made by Paul and seconded by Amy that they be accepted as read.

Report from Jennifer: Jennifer said the staff is working on the recording booth. The first recording in the new booth will be the Katherine Paterson memoir. The sound engineers at both the Perkins and Michigan libraries said the sound was not good enough, so Jennifer bought a new microphone and pre-amp which cost $300. The two new monitors for South Burlington have dropped out, but Jennifer thinks one will come back. They are presently halfway through a book. In February, Jennifer is arranging an orientation and training session for the local recording volunteers. Since Aidan has left the staff, his job of the final editing of our books is being done by Perkins at a cost of $135 per book.

Jennifer said the library is making a push to collect cassette machines so the circulation of cassettes can be finished. The first UEB committee meeting was postponed. The Montpelier PALS Group is visiting the Library on January 27th. Sara and Jennifer are attending VABVI’s tech fair on April 6th, and are considering making arrangements to attend Disability Day in Montpelier.

Michael Roche then told the group that he is retiring in February. He is worried about how frail the operation is with Jennifer and Sara having to do all of the work without any assistance. He thinks they need more support, and Mike Richman agreed.

UEB: Dan Norris said that the new Unified English Braille code would probably not be used exclusively for 20 years because the current generation of older people will not use it.

Name change for library: Jennifer said she did not know what the process was for changing the name of the library and that she would ask Marty about the process and what we could do to assist her in making the name change. Mike said he didn’t think it would be too difficult to achieve. The committee thinks that the present name is not specific enough and thought that using Universal Access Library would let people know the library is for all people with disabilities. Others said that we certainly needed a more descriptive name but universal might be a little too big. It was agreed that users should not know about the new name until it was approved. Mike asked Jennifer to talk with Marty about the process before the next meeting.

Brochures: Mike said that brochures are very expensive and that VCB expended a lot of time and money placing them in doctors’ offices. The doctors didn’t really want the brochures because they felt that having them around would defeat their purpose, i.e. curing the patients, and the brochures were usually gone within two months. Jennifer said that if we had brochures they should be distributed to as many events as possible, and that introducing a name change was a good time to distribute them. Mike said we should probably table the brochures until the name change is official.

Mike said that we should also wait to work on an information video until our name change. Paul said he works across from Public Radio and would bring information on advertising to the next meeting. Mike said that with public access TV, they will provide a studio, show you what to do, and you make your own programs. You can do one every month, or they will put your program in several different time slots where there is availability. He said to use his name when approaching their personnel. Jennifer said that Teresa had used public radio and that many of the library patrons listen to the radio a lot so it would be a good avenue.

Two ideas for making local libraries more aware of the population our library serves were to get on the Department of Libraries Facebook page and to do a discussion panel at the VLA conference. Amy said she would email the libraries and encourage them to put some of our stories and information on their Facebook pages. She has also proposed that we have a spot at the VLA conference for a discussion panel. She said she should get some news about this in February. Jennifer said she thought both the Facebook page and Amy’s proposal were very good ideas and thanked Amy for putting the proposal forward.

Jennifer said that Sharon Colvin, who is one of the library Facebook administrators, works at SSU one or two days a week now that Michael Roche has retired. She wants each person from LAC to try to get some information or stories about patrons as often as possible for the Facebook page. She said we should also constantly be thinking about other ways to get information about the library out to future patrons. Tracy pointed out that older people didn’t always have good computer skills, so we have to find a variety of ways to get the word out.

Jennifer asked Dan when the next UEB committee meeting would be. He said he did not have that information yet. Jennifer said she had ordered 30 copies of the UEB contractions for library patrons.

Jennifer said that she thought it would be good if we could have Karen Keninger from NLS at one of our meetings by conference call. She also thought it would be good to have someone from LAC approach Karen. Mike agreed to do this and to ask her to attend our next meeting by conference call.

He then gave a brief demonstration of Echo, an Amazon product that is totally controlled by voice. The voice is called Alexa, and she will tell you jokes, give you the weather, play music, help you order Amazon products, and play other games with you. Mike said that almost every day Amazon comes out with something new that Alexa can do for Echo owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Buchanan, Secretary