

Minutes: Dane County Future Planning Committee

**Thursday, December 09, 2004
SCLS Administration Building**

Present: Julie Chase, Sharon Zindars, Barb Dimick, Lysianne Unruh, Pat Chevis, Vicki Cothrol, Paul Nelson

Absent: Diana Skalitzky

Meeting began at 12:15 p.m.

1. Discussion of what we hope to accomplish:

Nelson recapped the reasons he was at the meeting: the current political environment at the County level; the situation in Waukesha and Milwaukee counties point to Dane County's future if we don't take action; the pending libraries in Fitchburg and Cottage Grove; and the sense that libraries in Dane County must shape their future before it is shaped for us by numerous forces.

Chase stated that with her retirement on the horizon, this type of future planning allowed her objectivity to plan and lead Dane County libraries into a new opportunity. Cothrol agreed; her own motivation for being on the committee stemmed from a similar position.

It was decided the key role of this committee is to provide the framework in which to educate ourselves and our colleagues in Dane County about the various organizational options available to the libraries in the Dane County Library Service. The hope is that this information can be disseminated to library board members in formats that inform them as well. At some point in the future, this committee will also be responsible for planning other venues for dialog and discussion, perhaps utilizing the expertise of a consultant.

2. Review/Clarify Board Planning Session Findings:

This was not discussed in great detail.

3. Background materials available:

Chase has numerous documents she will post to the DCL website in order to provide access by Dane County librarians and board members. Dane County Librarians will be encouraged to read applicable documents prior to various planned discussions.

4. Activities & Timeline

Chevis suggested we utilize the Dane County meetings as a forum for educating all DCL librarians about the organizing options. Those present agreed the greatest sense of ownership in any future decisions would only happen if everyone was talking together. Chase recommended creating a matrix to allow

everyone to compare the options in a neutral/unbiased manner. Chevis offered we only compare two to three options at each meeting allowing everyone the chance to ask questions and absorb the information – it was agreed there was a lot of information to make sense of. Dimick suggested the matrix include a strength/weaknesses/opportunities/threats (SWOT) section.

Committee members agreed that taking a year to work on education ourselves and our colleagues was realistic and necessary. It was decided that the host/chair of the January and March meetings be made aware that the Future Planning Committee would like an hour slot on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes by Lysianne Unruh