

Hennepin County Library
Officially Withdrawn (OW)

An organization for retired and former library employees/staff

September 25, 2014
Ridgedale Library

Present: Phyllis Bofferding, Judith Bortscheller, Roger Burg, Roseanne Byrne, Cathy Chastek, Pat Chisenhall, Jan DeSirey, Vicki Dunn, Linda Engberg, Jan Feye Stukas, Paula Fox, Joann Frankena, Jane Frymire, Barb Holden, Pat Kulseth, Laurie Lazinski, Lin Maki, Fifi Mattill, Robert Rohlf, Doris, Skalstad, David Waldemar, Julie Wallace, Marcia Wattson

Guest: Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director

Jan Feye Stukas, OW Board Member, called the meeting to order and asked all present to introduce themselves. Judith Bortscheller, Jan DeSirey and Barb Holden were attending their first OW meeting. Jan then introduced our speaker, Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director.

Lois gave a quick synopsis of her career (MPL History Collection, New Ulm Public Library, Westonka + numerous other libraries, interim director in 2008, director in 2009, and in 2013, the county law library was added).

Collection (questions submitted prior to the meeting & from the floor)

- art; not science; HCL's 1st priority is to invest in the collection
- current collection budget is \$7,635,000. & budget request is for a 1 million dollar increase
- other sources of funding include Friends groups (local & system-wide) for grants to special collections, e.g., Sheet Music Collection received \$50,000. and is now fully cataloged (suggestion: OW invite David Klaiber, staff, to speak about this collection)
- must maintain high Property Tax support for the collection
- stress that HCL is an "upstream solution" to many problems
- collection items are still being sent to the 'storage' space at the University of Minnesota; retrieving titles can take a long time - depending on staffing at U, HCL, etc.

- EXPRESS BOOKS program stopped because it was not cost effective (cost more to maintain than revenue generated)
- has formula for buying best sellers changed? YES - was 5/1; then 7/1; then 10/1 (which was not supportable in terms of good public service); now 5/1 or even 3/1; big question is what to do with 'remainders'? now not all copies are sold - some kept for resurgence of title (movie, tv, etc.)
- in 2010, restrictions were put on # of reserves patron could have & # of items out; in 2014, reserve limit was increased to 50

Open Hours

- **249 public service hours per week added in 2014!** - will remain in effect for 1 year and then be reviewed

Buildings

- **83,610 square feet added since 2010**
- temporary Weber Park opened
- new Walker and Excelsior libraries opened in 2014 ("transformational")
- a new strategy for buildings 2014 - 2023 - with overall goal to "build, renovate or remodel each library every 10 years"
- Southdale (is not currently identified in the 2014-2023 plan) - estimated cost to renovate is \$90 million; major issue is what will the County Courts decide about their location? once resolved, decision can be made about the library; a tricky building - renovate, move, tear down & start over? Southdale area is now considered urban - this has an impact on library plans
- a new 39,000 sq. ft. Brooklyn Park will be opened in 2016 as a STEM library (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

Technology

- 3 libraries (EP, MG, Central) experimenting using 3D printers with the public (aside: great field-trip for OW)
- Roosevelt & Walker have iPad dispensers (for use by library card holders); iPads loaded with early childhood material
- totally new website will launch next week (9/30); will have new catalog, new features, more interactive; has been 10 years since last totally new website; NOTE: comments are encouraged!

Library Classification Project

- this tough project has been completed (NOT the Putnam collection at Central)

Services and Staffing

- emphasis on partnering, learning, discovering & using new technology

Friends Groups

- Friends groups and Foundation now merged (Friends of the Hennepin County Library)
- each library has its' own friends group

Questions/Comments from attendees:

- Q = how is landscaping funded (EP's is awful); A = library budget with some local contributions (volunteer time, \$\$)
- Q = when will sign on the Minneapolis Central Library be changed to include the word **Minneapolis**? (currently just says 'Central" and it is no where near Central Avenue ; A =asked for in the budget, but no idea about specific amount / when it will happen
- C = consider doing an annual 'retirement tea' to celebrate all those who retire each year —invite all retirees

Final Comments (Lois)

- all are encouraged to add titles to booklist on library's public website
- all are encouraged to offer comments re: collection, buildings, etc. library staff
- Thanks for opportunity to speak with OW — hope to be invited back!

Remember to check the OW website for photos of this meeting & more:

www.hclow.net

Treasurer's Report

- Paid Membership = 87
 - May, 2014: \$1,618.38
 - dues 425.00
 - _____
 - 2,043.38
 - expenses - 80.41
 - _____
 - Sept., 2014: \$1,962.97

FEBRUARY, 2015 Meeting: Date and location to be announced; while there may be a short program, all are encouraged to bring favorite book titles, movies, etc. to share.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Engberg, Secretary