

Meeting Notes for March 6, 2017

Valley View Library, SeaTac WA
King County Library System



Present: Patricia Cutright, Chair; Elizabeth Partridge, Vice Chair; Cindy Aden, Kyle Cox, Patricia Devine, Laura Dushkes, Trish Henry, Beth Hudson, Lynne Kanne, Ann Lally, Jeff Martin, Lorena O'English, Elizabeth Partridge, Christine Peck, Susan Whitford, and Maura Walsh

Not attending: Marci Howells, Susan Hildreth

Meeting

Patricia Cutright called the meeting to order. We reviewed and corrected the agenda and meeting notes.

Angie Benedetti welcomed us. She gave us an introduction to the King County Library System (KCLS). There are ten regional managers for eleven regions. They have 48 locations now. The 49th will be opening in April in Tukwila Village, a mixed-use, neighborhood center. The 50th is already planned.

State Librarian Report

Aden reported that she has completed all library visits and staff interviews. There are currently five agency libraries that continue to use our OPAC. Only one is still part of WSL. At the WLA Learn Local days, WSL will host panel discussions about what we and other state libraries offer. This will include WSL, agency, and the State Law Library. WSL will also host a session about the LSTA Five Year Plan.

WSL is returning to roots by serving the legislature. We have moved our reception desk to lobby and research appointments are available by appointment. WSL is developing a new strategic plan.

LCW needs to reach out and talk to constituents. We do want input, but we don't want to raise expectations falsely. This input is informational; WSL is the decision maker. Our top priority is the legislative session in progress. Important issues include new building proposal and continued IMLS funding.

We are awaiting the evaluation, which assesses what we've done toward statewide goals, and develops findings to consider for the next Five-Year Plan. IMLS will acknowledge the evaluation and then vet the Five Year Plan, due 10/1/17.

Aden gave an update on ESSA, saying the process is still open and new Superintendent Reykdal has received input about and from libraries. Aden will work through Greg Lane to contact OSPI if it becomes appropriate.

Five-Year Plan

The Five Year Plan is for WSL as a whole. Four to six goals will be shared LSTA/WSL goals and another two are WSL oriented. This was the draft shared:

Goal: #1 Empower State legislators, agencies and citizens to make informed decisions that impact Washington civic and economic life.

Goals #2: Connect Washingtonians to their history. Employ digital initiatives to tell the stories of local communities and to celebrate our common heritage.

- Develop bibframe program/tools, possibly through LSTA funded grant, to increase discoverability of our materials statewide. (cf. Schema.org, LOC, OCLC, Sno-Isle & Orbis Cascade experiences)

Goal #3: Contribute to the state's economic prosperity by enhancing world-class education, literacy and life-long learning.

Goal #4: Safeguard the unique assets of our federal and state depository programs by using best practices to guarantee access and full participation by all stakeholders in these programs

- Secure funding for cataloging, digitization
- Collection PR

Goal #5: Support and enhance the education, information, literacy, and professional development needs and opportunities for Washington's underserved populations.

- Incarcerated
- WTBBL
- Un/underemployed
- Homeless
- Elderly
- Immigrants

Goal # 6: Elevate the quality of library service and caliber of library staff through consulting, training and modeling best practices to build capacity in libraries statewide.

- Evaluation Project Outcomes
- Project management with consistency

There was discussion of possible scenarios based on potential national budget developments. While our state funding appears stable, the unpredictability of the federal government's realignments means we need to prepare. If IMLS is defunded, there may be new rules regarding the second year budget. We don't know exactly what may be effected, nor how. Another point is that Congress needs to reauthorize IMLS.

At the state level, The Secretary of State's office is directing their main efforts toward funding a new building. WSL also wants to revitalize the friends group and is looking for influential advocates.

Statewide library messaging: We're not always on point and we're not always successful across the state. In fact, there can sometimes be too many messages. One message might be inclusive for all libraries if we had buy-in from local libraries – which Cox said are sometimes like different feudal states. Martin said that the concept is purely and simply libraries. Kanne shared that a 10-year-old marketing grant from state library was very

helpful and is still being used. Dushkes added that people don't understand what libraries are. Aden wants to show the interconnectivity of the state's libraries.

- The [Center for the Book](#) is currently only done at Seattle Public Library, but they're interested in making it statewide. WSL might be the clearinghouse for this.
- Cutright is currently crafting a message for politicians about the library's role in the economic and social development of a community. That's what they'll listen to.
- Aden suggested we could link to libraries on a webpage. O'English suggested ideas like a storymap or posters for libraries.

Library role: Cox doesn't believe that libraries should be everything to everyone. What does our community want us to provide, and is it in our scope? We're really a cultural organization. We support people but direct them to the other services in the community; we just can't be all to all, we shouldn't duplicate services, or exceed our scope. Libraries are important for information access, cultural programs, reading foundations, school readiness, pleasure reading and learning. The pursuit of knowledge and information literacy should be very important parts of what we do. That's a lot. LSTA funding could have a major impact creating and administering pilot projects. We need to work smarter to replicate projects, using scalability and cross-training librarians. What does an optimum grant look like?

- A one-year grant may be too short. Whitford recounted their experiences with a three year [IMLS grant Make Do Share](#). The plan changed course in first year, and they were able to adapt. The tech materials were expensive, the plan is online to replicate, and being shared with four libraries across the country.
- It would be more expedient to have a clearinghouse for ideas.
- Another idea feasible in a longer grant cycle is including specialized training for staff when appropriate.
- Henry said it would be great to be able to get a grant when they see something they want to try.

Underserved: (The [Department of Labor definition highlights 14 groups](#) of targeted populations, p. 7.) Peck said really small rural libraries and tribal libraries have many underserved and poor funding. Aden said that while each library recognizes their own needs, many times WSL may be the best positioned to help.

Partnering, community engagement: We need to partner with others when we are successful grantees. Partnering can be with community groups, different library types, foundations, historical centers, etc. Make libraries attention-getters and/or piggyback on other programs or events. One key is also to be smart about effective promotion.

- Offer Adulting 101 classes in a library.
- Bookmobile equipped with a 3D printer that goes to Farmers market and other local events.
- Humanities Washington for [Primetime Family Reading](#).
- [Red Badge Project](#) for veterans.
- Align the library with the city's strategic plan and, e.g. fight crime by fostering reading.
- Offer Books on Wheels with Meals on Wheels.
- Pop-up libraries at different events and locations.
- Weekly discussion series on socially relevant topics, encouraging conversations on issues. The library can become a center for civic engagement.

Health resources: Devine asked how we can best fund and support ways to allow libraries to help their patrons. Staff time can be a problem, but there are free resources online. We need to help get word out. Sounds like there may be a good partnership opportunity with free trainers.

Coding initiatives, STEM kits, Tech skills: WSL participates in [Microsoft Imagine Academy](#), which has three components: coding, digital literacy, and certification for Office suite programs. The productivity suite is available in multiple languages. This is good for students in OSPA and ESL programs. Beginning coding is available online. Aden commented that this would be so much better with an instructor. Kanne said that sometimes there is competition with current curriculum in an institution, which can create conflicts. Hudson said many library-sponsored computer skills classes seem to fail. Having computer skills is valuable for all, not just tech-oriented studies and careers. Lally shared that UW is gathering data about a path toward STEM and how that can be incorporated into curricula.

Schools: Henry expressed a need for databases in kindergarten, and more book collections. Training for weeding and collection development is also needed. They would like maker kits that could be circulated among schools.

Coming Attractions

We will have our May meeting near SeaTac again. Logistically this works well for travelers and possible legislative session demands.

We're exploring the idea of combining the September and November meetings. This would allow more time for in-depth work as well as a visit to one of the WSL's institutional libraries. We'll explore possibilities in or near Spokane and Walla Walla.

We anticipate several openings on LCW by the end of 2017. Please keep in mind that we may need to recruit for the following positions:

- Underserved
- Technology
- Schools