

**SUBURBAN LIBRARY COOPERATIVE**  
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**COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Suburban Library Cooperative**  
**June 14, 2007**

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. at the Suburban Library Cooperative.

Present: Smith (Armada), Lusardi (Chesterfield), Neal (Clinton-Macomb), Sterling (Eastpointe), Parus (Harper Woods), Hoffmeyer (Lenox), Reghi (Lois Wagner), Thomas (MacDonald), Labelle (Macomb), Worrell (Mount Clemens), Turgeon (Sterling Heights), Graham (Ray), Harrison (Romeo), Valade (Roseville), Orlando (St. Clair Shores), Chambers (Shelby), Russ (Troy), Doege (Utica), Urban (Warren), Valyi-Hax (SLC), Frezza (SLC)

Absent: Cross (Center Line), Schmidli (Fraser)

Guest: Anne M. Seuryneck (Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith)

II. Approval of the Agenda.

Chambers moved to approve the amended Agenda, supported by Labelle. Motion carried.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting.

Labelle moved to change a name in MCL'S Library Announcements to Don Morandini, Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development.

Orlando made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the last meeting, supported by Parus. Motion carried.

IV. Suburban Library Cooperative Business.

A. Automation System Restructuring Discussion

Anne M. Seuryneck from Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith discussed two avenues in which the Automation System can be separated from the Cooperative. One is to have the Automation System become a non-profit entity and the other is becoming an entity, comparable to a district library, under the Urban Cooperation Act.

There is a prohibition in MI through the constitution about loaning of credit which includes giving funds to either other public or private corporations without using its statutory authority. The question is "What authority would the Cooperative have to give/sell/lease etc. a valuable automation system to a non-profit corporation?" If the Cooperative could lease the system to the non-profit, but what happens if the Cooperative goes out of business?

The Urban Cooperation Act can be established in many different ways. It can be an agreement between many municipalities. The Cooperative would be a part of the agreement as well as other libraries. The Cooperative can contribute assets to the private entity; not all members have to attend. Member libraries would make up the Board giving them more control versus a non-profit entities Board. The new contract should state that all existing contracts would be absorbed in the new entity. As long as the Cooperative is in existence the assets stay with the Cooperative.

The Council Members agreed to pursue the Urban Cooperation Act and/or find other avenues to separate the Automation System from the Cooperative as soon as possible.

Valyi-Hax will be attending the Cooperative Director's Meeting on June 15, 2007 to discuss the new direction of Cooperatives and possible boundaries if the state wants to reduce the amount of Cooperatives to six. The difficulty to separate by counties is that some libraries are in two counties. The state may also require Cooperative Directors to become state employees. There is a concern because the Directors would then be accountable to the state and not member libraries.

If the state is going to restructure Cooperatives, then it would be best if current Cooperatives were dissolved so they could take care of their liabilities and distribute their assets while the new cooperatives are being formed.

The Shared Technology Committee is meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> and will invite Anne Seuryneck back to further discuss avenues to restructure the Automation System.

Due to the importance of moving forward with the restructuring, Thomas motioned to have a Council Meeting on July 12, 2007 at the Suburban Library Cooperative, seconded by Lusardi. Motion Carried.

#### B. Automation

Most of the PC installations are completed and have gone very well due to Dell presetting the PCs to our specifications.

There is no date set for SLC to go live on MeLCat due to a "snag" with the new server that they put us on. No details had been given so far. Due to the length of time since staff has had training, there is a question if more training is needed. SLC does have step-by-step instructions from Northland that may help as a refresher for staff. Kristen is also planning on more training and once MeLCat is up and running, staff will have a few months to reacquaint themselves with the system.

Charlie Nocita is our new Software Support Specialist. Charlie came from Roseville Public Library and started on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### C. Gale Virtual Reference Purchase

An online database list of selected titles was distributed. The total cost of all the titles on the list appears to be down from \$90,000 to \$45,000, but SLC will have to verify the discrepancy. Some titles are being eliminated because the material can become out of date quickly. The Online Database Committee will eliminate these types of materials and other titles to reduce the cost to \$25,000. SLC will look at ways to track database usage. If usage is high on certain titles, we will continue their subscription for any updates and look at other titles to purchase for next year.

#### V. Announcements and Information.

##### A. MLA Public Policy.

State Aid has been released. We need to thank our legislatures and MLA's new lobbying group for their support of the release. A new proposal to reduce Manufacturing Property Tax by 65% and a 23% cut on Commercial Property may affect tax levies on CMPL and other libraries.

#### VI. Member libraries' announcements/concerns.

Thanks to the Lenox Public Library for bringing food to the meeting.

Resumes for the 2007/2008 Clerk and Librarian Substitute lists are coming in. The Personnel Committee should meet after the July 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting to approve the candidates.

ARM – Summer Reading for everybody this year. Teens and adults will be participating in a Summer Mystery Reading Program.

CLL - Absent.

CHE – Burtek Inc., a local business, donated \$6,000 for children’s computers.

CMPL- Bomb threat this month for the libraries in Clinton Township was a hoax. Switched Pams to CMS on May 25<sup>th</sup> and patrons are struggling with the changes. Next Wednesday, June 20 at noon we are having our automation system upgrade until June 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Received 2800 responses thus far from our e-survey.

EPL- Summer Reading Program

FRA - Absent.

HPW –P.J. Parrish visit went well.

LEN –Summer Reading Program.

LWM –Summer Reading Program.

MPL – Getting ready for Bay Rama on June 17<sup>th</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>. Hired a full-time children’s librarian and hopefully will be renovating our children’s area.

MCL – 160 participated in our Vendor Fair on June 5<sup>th</sup>, including leader dogs. Passport fair was last week and we processed 80 passports. Distributed promotional materials for the parking lot sale on Sunday, July 22 from 10am – 3pm and distributed the very first newsletter produced by Joann Priester, Chair of our friends group.

MTC – Worried about the Personal Property Tax.

RAY – Absent

ROG – Strategic Planning retreat at the end of June. Our new Kezar Branch Librarian, Stacie Narlock, started April 21<sup>st</sup> and usage has increased by 25%.

RSV – Switched from Comcast to WOW due to the numerous unresolved problems.

SCS – No Report.

SBL- Summer Reading Program.

SHL – Welcome Tammy Turgeon as the new Director of the Sterling Heights Public Library. Attending city meetings and learning about how Sterling Heights is run. Over 200 people attended our Roscoe Program. The Historical Upton House was in the local paper and we have received over 70 old items. On Tuesday, June 19: children’s Pirate party at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. and Harry Potter Party for Grown-Ups on Thursday, July 12 at 7 p.m.

TPL – Welcome back Cathy Russ as the new Director of the Troy Public Library. Attended a meeting with the City and looked at a feasibility study for a new building.

UPL – Everything going well and no more sewage backups.

WPL – Summer Reading Program is starting and we had a Pirate Costume Party that was very well attended. Held Genealogy and Scrapbooking Programs for teens.

VII. Public Participation.

No public participation.

VIII. Next meeting date.

The next meeting will be July 12, 2007 at the Suburban Library Cooperative at 9:30 a.m.  
Personnel Committee meeting to follow.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.