

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – Official  
Thursday, November 11, 2021, following the Board meeting  
Kent District Library Service Center**

Council Members Present: Kerry Fountain, Britney Dillon, Mary Cook, Elyshia Hoekstra  
Staff Present: Carol Dawe, Sheryl VanderWagen

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Past Chair, Kerry Fountain (IS). There were 14 additional participants. The gavel was passed to Incoming Chair, Britney Dillon.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Heather Wood-Gramza (OZ) moved, supported by Amber McLain (OJ), to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Peggy Hemerling (BH) and Maggie McKeithan (OS) suggested that everyone wear their name tags to meetings in the future. This will help new directors and those who have not attended meetings in a long time due to the pandemic to associate names with faces. The group agreed that this was a good idea. Carol will bring paper name tags and markers to the next meeting for those who don't bring their own.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - a) Amber McLain (OJ) moved, supported by Kerry Fountain (IS), to approve Advisory Council minutes from September 9, 2021, as presented – *motion carried*.
- 5) **BOARD REPORT:** No report
- 6) **ILS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Sheryl VanderWagen gave an update on the status of the telephone situation and the TNS. There has been some improvement to the number of unsuccessful notices that are returned to the server. She will continue to print and place those notices in the LLC green zipper bags until the level of unsuccessful notices has returned to normal. She gave an advance warning that she will be sending out the 2022 Holiday request form in the next few days and asked everyone to respond in a timely manner.
- 7) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** There were no additions to the written report and no further questions.
- 8) **OTHER REPORTS:**
  - a) Continuing Ed Draft Committee Minutes (September 2021) – presented for information. Heather Wood-Gramza thanked everyone for their support of the de-escalation training. The video for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session will be posted to the Lakeland YouTube channel soon. The committee will meet next week to work on the calendar for events for 2022. Please let her know if you have suggestions. She asked if the YouTube videos were useful. Kelly Tinkham (NN) reported that she used the first de-escalation session recording in a staff training event and that they are following that up with training from a police officer on more serious events, such as active shooter. She thanked Lakeland and the committee for making it available.
  - b) MLA Board Representative Report – No report
  - c) MLA Legislative Committee Report – Dale Parus (IC) and Shirley Bruursema (KDL) gave an update on current legislative issues. MLA is focusing on the election issue and the bill that would reduce the number of annual elections from three to one per year. MLA opposes the bill, along with many other groups in Michigan. The bill is currently sitting in committee. It was noted for information that should the bill pass the legislature; library questions would be placed LAST on the ballot and these questions could suffer from ballot fatigue on the part of voters should the number of elections be reduced to one per year. Shirley noted that regardless of the status of this bill, the 2022 election cycle not be impacted. Dale and Shirley both noted that 2022 will be busy elections year due to the mid-term elections in November. There was a question about the most recent bill that was an attempt to divert penal fines for snowmobile trail maintenance. That bill is not going anywhere right now. The person that introduced that bill was using a true but inaccurate document published by the Senate as the basis for it. Dale and Shirley noted that we need to re-educate our legislators on the importance of penal fines to public libraries and that we should always be aware of attempts to divert those funds.
- 9) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) ARPA Capacity Grant Updates: Both the Digital Content grant and the Technology grant received funding. Lakeland will be responsible for administration of the Digital Content grant and TLN will be responsible for administration of the Technology grant. The other cooperative directors will also be assisting with these grants. Preliminary meetings have begun. The Digital Content grant will be exclusively Overdrive materials. The Technology grant will be for kits for equipment for programming such as online programming necessities, outdoor programming kits with the components needed for those. There will be surveys put out by both grant committees. Please regard the deadlines seriously and respond promptly when you receive these surveys. Funding levels will be based on a needs-based formula that will be determined by the Library of Michigan. The committees will meet with the Library of Michigan on November 15 to receive that formula. Carol noted that for the Digital Content grant with Overdrive, all libraries will be given a separate account from their regular Overdrive accounts with which to purchase the pre-selected materials. Lakeland will front the money to Overdrive and then all Michigan libraries will reimburse Lakeland. The content will be divided into carts on various topics related to education, health/wellness, employment and more. The content will be primarily nonfiction. Both grants will include a marketing component that will be designed and managed by the Michigan Library Association.
- b) LLC New Web Page Overview: Carol and Sheryl gave an overview of the new Lakeland website. Amber McLain showed the new Lakeland map on the Patmos Library website designed by one of her staff members. She gave permission for other Lakeland libraries to use it. The link is: <http://www.patmoslibrary.org/lakeland-library-cooperative.html>
- 10) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jennifer Salgat (IL) gave an update on patron reaction to the Lake Odessa Community Library being fines free. She said her patrons are very happy with the decision and she recommended that other libraries take that step. It was a positive move for the library and the community.
- 11) **NEXT MEETING:** December 9, 2021, following the Board meeting at the Kent District Library Service Center.
- 12) **ADJOURNMENT:** Kelly Tinkham (NN), supported by Jennifer Salgat (IL) moved to adjourn at 10:53 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sheryl VanderWagen