

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – Official
Thursday, January 13, 2022, following the Board meeting
Kent District Library Service Center**

Council Members Present: Britney Dillon, Mary Cook

Council Members Absent: Elyshia Hoekstra

Staff Present: Carol Dawe, Sheryl VanderWagen

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m. by Chair, Britney Dillon. There were 24 additional participants.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Jessica Hunt (NG) moved, supported by Stefanie Reed (MG), to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Amber McLain announced the availability of the new Intellectual Freedom resources page on the Lakeland website.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a) Kelly Tinkham (NN) moved, supported by Mary Johnson (MADL), to approve the Advisory Council minutes from December 9, 2021, as presented – *motion carried*.
- 5) **BOARD REPORT:** Dale Parus noted the Lakeland Board will begin a strategic planning process.
- 6) **ILS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Sheryl VanderWagen had nothing to add to her written report in the Board packet.
- 7) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Carol mentioned the follow up on the COVID tests. She took a straw poll regarding whether libraries are interested in in-person vs virtual author visits for the Michigan Notable Books tour. There were several libraries that would welcome an in-person visit. She mentioned the First Amendment Audits that are occurring throughout the state. The best practice if your library is selected, is to keep calm and carry on.
- 8) **OTHER REPORTS:**
 - a) Continuing Ed Committee – Heather Wood-Gramza (OZ) gave an update on the committee status. They are still in the process of reorganization and recruiting new members. Reach out to Heather if you are interested.
 - b) MLA Board Representative Report – No report
 - c) MLA Legislative Committee Report – Shirley Bruursema (KDL) reported that the MLA Legislative Committee had its first meeting of the year. She noted the MLA Advocacy Day in March has been changed to a virtual session rather than an in-person session. Dale Parus (IC) reported that the Legislative Committee is looking at Headlee Amendment issues along with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Counties and the Michigan Townships Association. MLA will partner with those groups to effect changes to the Headlee Amendment/Proposal A which has financially impacted every local governmental unit since its adoption. He urged everyone to respond when the call for action goes out. The committee is hoping to see action on this in 2022. There was a question about the recent proposal to reduce the number of elections. Dale said that the legislation has had two hearings and is still in committee.
- 9) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - a) ARPA Capacity Grant Updates: Carol Dawe opened the floor for questions about the grants and the survey that was sent out asking libraries how they preferred to spend their allotted monies. She encouraged libraries to become Overdrive Advantage customers and to purchase something through their Advantage accounts. Advantage purchases are made available to local patrons before they are made available to everyone. There was a question about whether libraries could know what was being purchased by other libraries through their Advantage accounts. There is not a way for

other libraries to know what is being purchased through Advantage accounts. There was a question about the formula used to calculate the allotment of grant monies. Carol noted that the Library of Michigan used the formulas established by the IMLS combining unemployment rate, bandwidth availability, poverty, and SNAP. Libraries with multiple branches were averaged on this rate among their branches. Heather Wood-Gramza (OZ) noted that the content offered in the grant are very specific non-fiction titles in several categories. There are no popular fiction titles available through the grant. Carol noted that there are 17 curated lists on various topics to choose from. There will be a Lakeland group Overdrive meeting in February. There was a question about the grant timeline. Stand-alone libraries have until January 25, 2022, to purchase their titles. The project deadline for purchasing is May 15, 2022. This will allow the Marketing team to begin the publicity campaign with overall project completion in August 2022.

- b) COVID-19 Information Sharing: Britney Dillon opened the floor to questions and comments on the current COVID-19 situation. There were several comments on in-person vs virtual programming with some noting an increase in virtual attendance and a decline in in-person attendance. Others have not seen that and have experienced a decline in virtual attendance. Several libraries offer at least one virtual story time program each week. Several libraries offer hybrid programming for both kids and adults where there is both an in-person and virtual option to attend. No one is closed and doing only curbside pickup. All libraries are open to walk in traffic. There was variation on masks, although generally everyone is strongly encouraging mask wearing on the part of both staff and public. A couple of libraries who are departments of municipalities are requiring masks because their cities have mandated them. There has been no move on the part of most libraries and municipalities to require vaccination.

10) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Strategic Planning Discussion: Dale Parus opened a discussion on formulating an updated Strategic Plan for Lakeland.
- i There were several comments about the merits of having an outside facilitator or creating the plan internally. Looking at Harwood and other options
 - ii Dale asked about services that Lakeland offers or could offer if money were no object. There were several items on that list including:
 - a credit back to the members for help with their local budgets;
 - exploring a new ILS
 - delivery to every library every day; Add Clarksville to delivery
 - centralized processing/cataloging/acquisitions and
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 - a Youth Services staff member for Lakeland;
 - restoration of pickup anywhere in the online catalog;
 - more digital and technology resources cooperation with the Cooperative leveraging group purchasing of those resources. A committee to talk about sharing of resources, how we share, what we share, and helping to reduce redundancy of some purchases at multiple libraries along with minimum collection/budget standards for resource sharing.
 - Patron registration and signature standardization
 - iii There will be another similar discussion at the next meeting in February to allow for more input from participants who were not prepared for today's discussion.
- b) MLibrary Card vs MeLCat Visiting Patron: Carol asked if there were libraries in Lakeland who still participate in the MLibrary Card program offered by the Cooperative Directors. There are some.

- 11) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Maggie McKeithan (OS) has had patrons interested in resources to help them spot misinformation. Amber McLain noted that there are some resources on that topic on the new Intellectual Freedom page on the Lakeland website.
Stefanie Reed (MG) gave an update on the request by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners for detailed reports from the county libraries detailing how their allotments of the countywide millage are spent. The commissioners have agreed to an annual report from each library's director instead.
- 11) **NEXT MEETING:** February 10, 2022, following the Board meeting at the Kent District Library Service Center.
- 12) **ADJOURNMENT:** Amber McLain (OJ), supported by Merri Jo Tuinstra (ES) moved to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Sheryl VanderWagen