

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – Official
Thursday, June 9, 2022, following the Board meeting
Kent District Library Service Center**

Council Members Present: Britney Dillon (IB), Elyshia Hoekstra (OC)

Council Members Absent: Mary Cook (OA)

Staff Present: Carol Dawe, Sheryl VanderWagen

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair, Britney Dillon. There were 30 additional participants.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Kerry Fountain (IS) moved, supported by Virginia DeMumbrum (SW), to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **BOOK CHALLENGES & INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM PRIMER:** Presentation by Lance Werner (KDL). In his presentation, Lance discussed the current situation with the growing number of book challenges throughout Michigan and in Lakeland in particular. He advised participants on how to approach those challenges, focusing on the Constitution and the First Amendment rather than on the merits of specific titles. He encouraged library staff to rally their community supporters to attend meetings and speak out about intellectual freedom. These challenges are coming from a vocal minority but in general are not the wishes of the majority of the library's patrons. He advised library staff to use their local demographics as guides to collection development. There is no official census data regarding the number of LGBTQIA citizens, but the latest studies suggest that 7-12% of a library's service population falls into that group. He noted that relationships with both citizens and library board members are keys to fighting back on censorship issues. He urged all libraries to have a solid Collection Development policy and a process for reconsideration of titles. There are good examples available through MLA and on the Lakeland Library Cooperative Intellectual Freedom website page. There is no legal requirement that requires a library to address book challenges from non-residents. It was noted that there are challenges ongoing in 10 counties in Michigan and that Michigan is one of 37 states where there has been an uptick in such challenges.
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- 5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a) Kelly Tinkham (NN) moved, supported by Teresa Kline (AF), to approve the Advisory Council minutes from April 14, 2022, as presented – *motion carried*.
- 6) **BOARD REPORT:** Dale Parus gave a summary of the board activities at the previous meeting.
- 7) **ILS MANAGERS REPORT:**

Sheryl VanderWagen pointed out her written report. Barcode and delivery dot orders are due by June 30, 2022. She is working with libraries to update the Preferred Name/Legal Name in patron records. Until she has updated the records for your library, continue to enter the Legal Name (from the ID) into the Preferred Name field to avoid overwriting data when she copies the names from Preferred Name to Legal Name. Libraries may contact her for the updates otherwise she will begin notifying libraries of when their updates will be performed. There will be adjustments to patron record display in Sierra and patron record templates for creating new patrons following each library's updates. She noted that iTiva has

had some issues lately with multiple calls to patrons and lots of unsuccessful overdue and hold pickup notices in delivery. Continue to check the Lakeland zipper bags for those notices. We are working to resolve issues with the machine and with our analog telephone lines. She noted that following the patron names update project, she will be working on setting up videogame sharing in the system for those who want to share.

8) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Carol Dawe noted that in addition to LLC staff working out the current iTiva issues, they are also considering recommendation of a replacement for the service. Details to come later.

9) **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Continuing Ed Committee – The unofficial minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting were included in the packet. Carol asked about the treat bags that were sent out in delivery. They were well received by the library staff members.
- b) Circulation Forum – The unofficial notes from the April 22, 2022 meeting were included in the packet.
- c) Youth Services – The unofficial minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting were included in the packet.

10) **OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) MLA Legislative Committee Report – Shirley Bruursema (KDL) and Dale Parus (IC) reported that MLA is providing resources for intellectual freedom on their website and that she is part of a subcommittee looking at the current climate regarding book banning. She encouraged everyone to subscribe to and use new Michigan Right To Read website. That website was developed by a grassroots coalition of Michigan residents organized by MLA. In the legislature, the Legislative Committee expects that there will not be much activity this summer due to the legislature being on vacation for much of the summer. The Senate proposed budget has a \$500,000 increase for state aid and the committee is monitoring that proposal.

11) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a) Patron Point: Carol Dawe gave the update on the Patron Point project. Amber McLain, our new Lakeland Member Services manager has just completed all of the GIS files that are needed for online patron registration and verification and renewal. She is working on email campaigns for Rising Adults and Library card renewals. Carol noted that Amber will be taking the lead on this project. Patron Point also notified us that they can use Patron Agency field to pull and filter patron records. This is development that they said they had but which was not in place prior to this and is essential to moving forward with online registration. We are awaiting word on a patron reload.

12) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Future Marketing and MLibraryIsnow.org discussion: Carol Dawe reported that the website was designed to publicize the ARPA equipment and capacity grants. It contains a directory all Michigan libraries with links to the various grant equipment and ematerials that were purchased at the libraries. It was designed to be a patron driven website. The Cooperative directors are looking for feedback on the viability of maintaining the website and future updates as a resource for ongoing marketing of local library services. The group gave Carol feedback that she will take back to the Cooperative directors.

13) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

a) Leann Parker announced that the Howard Miller Public Library (OZ) has hired Amanda Hanson most recently from the Naperville Public Library in Naperville IL as their next director. She will start at Howard Miller on September 5, 2022

14) **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, July 14, 2022, following the Board meeting at the Kent District Library Service Center.

11) **ADJOURNMENT:** Matt Lubbers-Moore (SF), supported by Jessica Hunt (NG) moved to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Sheryl VanderWagen