



Douglas County Library Futures Task Force (LFTF)

Douglas County Library

Friday, April 7, 2017, 5:30p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:			
Gary Leif	Amy Jensen	Bryan McNutt	Brian Prawitz
Nancy Erickson	James Williams	Doris Bartlett	DeeDee Murphy
Pat Fahey	Dave Cunningham	Bob Bell	Robin Tripp
Linda Middlekauff	Buddy Kovachy	Harold Hayes	Henry Stevens
Guest Presenters:	Terry Prestianni Laura Harvey		
ITEM			Action
Gary Leif called the meeting to order at 5:32pm Round table self-introductions followed.			
1. March 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes Motion to approve, seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.			None
2. Funding Sub-Committee update-J. Williams J. Williams gave brief overview of the purpose of the funding sub-committee and discussed ideas they have been discussing. Once minutes are approved by sub-committee members, they will be disseminated to rest of task force and H. Gallego will post to the LFTF dedicated website.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-committee members to approve minutes. • H. Gallego to upload to LFTF website.
3. Terry Prestianni-Sutherlin School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Prestianni provided the group with a historical timeline of how his idea to partner the school district with the city to maintain the library came to fruition. The process started with online schooling and developed into a favorably functioning model. In the future, he plans to move the summer school program into one of the rooms and have the older kids volunteer and assist the younger kids. Mr. Prestianni stated in the future, he hopes to have high school kids work in the library via the “work experience” class and assist with building maintenance. The City of Sutherlin has been an instrumental partner in turning this plan into a reality. • One of the obstacles noted is ensuring all volunteers are safe around children. Currently, they are giving all volunteers background checks through the school/city system. • Mr. Prestianni also noted that Sherman County Library system operates at their local high school. He hadn’t researched all of the details, but it does answer the question of whether schools and public libraries can be partnered. He believes that the libraries in this system are outdated and needs updated in order to appeal to the technological ways of today. • It was stated that the Wolf Creek Library is also the 			None

<p>school library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a monthly school superintendents meeting at ESD headquarters and Mr. Prestianni would be willing to reach out to Mr. Lasher to inquire about adding this topic to the agenda in order to discuss and brainstorm these ideas with other superintendents. • Currently the library is operational during school hours; however, if the budget forecast is favorable, he states he would like to hire personnel to run the library for longer hours. • Commissioner Leif noted that he plans to meet with the Reedsport Superintendent as they have a similar idea in mind, but only during the summer months. He would like to obtain a fact sheet from Mr. Prestianni and disseminate to other school district superintendents. • The discussion led to possibilities of using the school district boundaries as the library district boundaries to ensure there would be no fees for unincorporated areas. Going this route would mean no exclusions for citizens in need. • L. Middlekauff stated that if fees were charged for those outside of the boundaries, an effort to support via scholarship would be made. 	
<p>4. Laura Harvey-Roseburg Educator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Harvey presents her background and states she is speaking as an advocate for the children and not as a representative of Roseburg School District. She emphasized the history and need for libraries and the 35% of children that are living below the poverty level who depend on the library to obtain internet access. • L. Harvey noted that public libraries have always been supported by taxation. • Went over the data for summer reading programs and how it helps children prepare for the upcoming school year and the future. Over 12,000 children participated in 2016. She then reminded the group that there aren't many bookstores in town for them to purchase books and sometimes the library is there only access. • L. Harvey went on to explain the importance of volunteers and how hospitals have amazing volunteers, but you'd never expect them to run one. The same goes for a library. Although volunteers are an important piece, they should not be expected to adequately operate all that goes into running a library. • Commissioner Leif reiterated that this is why this task force was formed. In order to come up with a solution. The Commissioners could have walked away from the problem after the ballot measure failed in the November election, but they felt it was important to explore options and why we are inviting different presenters and entertaining different ideas. • L. Middlekauff made the point of issues in 	None

<p>transportation. The demographics state that getting to the library is difficult for some and collaboration with the schools could really assist in library access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Harvey agreed that this collaboration could be good for all, but she wants to emphasize the need to keep the children safe and the laws regarding sexual predators being near children and schools. • L. Harvey informs the task force that they have a lot of community and educator support that has not been tapped into. Members of the task force state that if the teachers union would like a representative from them, they'd be willing to attend a meeting. 	
<p>5. Public Comment/Questions-Commissioner Leif</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous Story regarding the “re-opening” of the Sutherlin library as a “Reading Room”. The first family was a homeschool family and the second was a six year old boy that went straight to the children’s room, didn’t understand why he couldn’t check the books out and burst into tears when he couldn’t take the books home. • J. Ross made the comment that he is married to an educator and appreciates L. Harvey being her today and asks for her assistance in tapping into the young minds of what the children want. Maybe having them do a contest to “think outside the box” on how to fix the funding issues for the library. • B. Pritchard stated we need to reach people who think libraries are a waste of money. Educate them that no libraries lower property values. • C. Waters pointed out that we have a problem recruiting highly qualified executives and libraries are important for recruitment. She would like to help and know others that would like to help, they just don’t know how. Commissioner Leif suggested she reach out to the Friends of the Library group in her area. • P. Fahey told the story that he was at the Sutherlin Library assisting in getting it up and running when he was a young man outside on his bike. The child was excited that the Wi-Fi was back on. When Mr. Fahey asked what he wanted it for, the child responded that connecting him to Wi-Fi allows him to call his grandma since his phone is for emergencies only. 	
<p>6. Future Presentations-Commissioner Leif Cheryl Hancock-Harney County Library</p>	
<p>7. Adjournment and Next Meeting: April 14, 2017</p>	