



COUNTY OF MARATHON
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Task Force Library System Inquiry,
Monday, January 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.

AGENDA

1. (11:00 a.m.) Call to Order
2. (5 minutes) Public Comments
3. (10 minutes) Introductions of Task Force Members
4. (10 minutes) Review and Approval of Task Force Topics and Timeline
5. (5 minutes) Take Force Member Roles
6. (10 minutes) Meeting Procedures – Any Specific Requests or Concerns
7. (10 minutes) Dave Eckmann, President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce
 - How We Attract and Retain the Best Possible Workforce
8. February’s Topic: Technology
9. Adjournment

Signed: *Sharon Hunter*
Library Board President

*All items on the agenda are considered action items, regardless of action taken.

*All times are approximate and subject to change

“Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213.”

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
FAXED TO: Other Media Groups
FAXED BY: H. Wilde
FAXED DATE: January 22, 2020
FAXED TIME: 10:15 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____

Meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Task Force Library System Inquiry, Monday, January 27, 2020. Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.

Present: Sharon Hunter, Mark Arend, Gary Beastrom

Excused: Rebecca Frisch, Shannon Schultz, Scott Winch

Others: Ralph Illick, Leah Giordano, Thomas O'Neill, Heather Wilde, and 6 visitors

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 by Sharon Hunter.
Sharon Hunter welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Public Comments

Joshua Klingbeil had a question on the clarity of the questions and the process of the task force. Sharon Hunter, Library Board President, explained that it will be your personal evaluation in terms of what you feel are the skills and strengths of what your staff bring to your system.

Introductions of Task Force Members

Sharon Hunter: the current President of the Library Board. I worked with the Department of Public Instruction for 40 years as a supervisor in the local office and was a longtime library user.

Mark Arend: recently retired from the Winnefox Library System as the system director. I handled the day to day administration of the system and also worked closely with the county libraries.

Gary Beastrom: current member of the MCPL Board and also representing Marathon County as a County Supervisor.

Shannon Schultz: is with the Department of Public Instruction as a Public Library Administration Consultant in the Public Library Development Sector Section.

Rebecca Frisch: is the Director of Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ).

Scott Winch: current member of the MCPL Board and also the Superintendent of the Stratford School District.

When we were looking to put the task force together, we worked with Corporation Counsel Corbett. We received approval to put together a task force that would be open minded and willing to learn about two different systems.

Review and Approval of Task Force Topics and Timeline

We will be meeting until June. In January we had hoped to talk about Attracting and Retaining Employees. When looking at library systems, does system membership impact MCPL's ability to attract and retain exceptional employees?

- February our goal is to talk about technology. What are the capabilities of each system for identifying, promoting and supporting existing and emerging technologies to ensure that Marathon County Public Library is positioned to be an industry leader in Wisconsin.
- March we will talk about the financial aspect, both cost and benefit.
- April we will talk about Innovation, Organization Excellence

- May we will talk about the System Governance
- June we will talk about the service to customers internal and we will also do a SWOT analysis and summary. We will take our pros and cons to the Library Board in June or July. If we would like a tour of the facilities we can do that at any time.

Arend: commented that if a library wants to leave a system, they have to give notice before the end of June of the year ahead. Director Illick: should the Library Board determine that our best avenue be to change systems we weren't thinking that we would make it by January 2021. If we took one year from June 2020 it would give all parties involved enough time.

Task Force Member Roles

Shannon Schultz: as the public library administration for the state, I am uniquely authorized interpret Chapter 43. Therefore, I think my strongest contribution is to offer input on all system governance and legal aspects of this process, not just in the selection of a library system but in any transitions that may occur, if that path is chosen. I also bring a statewide perspective to the discussion, as I am connected to and work with all of the library systems. Further, as a DPI staff member I have access to a lot of resources and data on all of the systems. Finally, as a former director of an SCLS member library, I bring experience and familiarity with a system that perhaps others at the table do not possess.

Rebecca Frisch: likes to take copious notes, is willing to coordinate with Heather and share my notes with her as she prepares the meeting minutes. This will help us in the end with our recommendation and decision as we move along. She is also a director of the Marathon County departments and on the leadership team.

Mark Arend: started career at Beaver Dam library and for the last 19 years I have been at the Winnefox Library System. I handled the day to day administration and know the workings of the system very well. I know how different every system is and how difficult it can be to analysis or compare apples to apples. I have a passing familiarity with all of the library systems in the state through working with the system directors over the last 18 years.

Gary Beaström: I would like to stay open minded and evaluate both systems and see what they can bring. Help to make a recommendation at the end in June once we have gone through all of the information and see what seems to be the best fit.

Sharon Hunter: I feel that is my role. I am really anxious to learn about the library systems. I am looking at this as a learning opportunity and also to be open-minded and determine what is best for our library.

We had to write up a Mission Statement, a Membership and Duties Responsibility for the County. We will be meeting monthly and at our meetings data will be collected to help us prepare a comprehensive list of pros and cons regarding whether the Marathon County Public Library should move to South Central Library System or remain with the Wisconsin Valley Library System. We will formulate a recommendation to the library board regarding that ultimate question.

Meeting Procedures – Any Specific Requests or Concerns

We will follow Roberts Rules of Order. Director Illick mentioned before that as a task force that we could decide who should chair the committee. There was some thought about possibility of Arend being the chair.

Arend: would need a quorum to decide this. I would be willing to chair the committee if it is the committee's desire.

Hunter: this will be on the agenda for February and we will work together to formulate the next agenda.

Dave Eckmann, President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce

- How we Attract and Retain the Best Possible Workforce

Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dave Eckmann addressed the Task Force, speaking on the topic of the importance of attracting and retaining excellent employees. Mr. Eckmann noted that it is critical to the growth and vitality of the Greater Wausau region that we embrace change, and that we reckon with the realities associated with a shrinking population base. Mr. Eckmann noted that the region has many positive characteristics that can attract new people and businesses, but he emphasized that in order to move growth in a positive direction we will all need to leave our old paradigms behind and recognize that the status quo is insufficient. He said that the chamber believes that MCPL is a wonderful community resource, and that we are very much a part of the change that needs to happen in the region to ensure growth and viability in the future.

Arend: does the library have a strategic plan or a plan where you want services to be in five to ten years? Director Illick: we have operated off of our Attributes and Outcomes. These were developed to take the place of a strategic plan. Arend, could the committee have something in writing on where you would want to go. The most important issues will be what you will need from the library system for support to get to where you want to be.

February's Topic: Technology

February's topic will be technology. We will also look at Leadership and possibly at your recommendation. We should have some future goals from the library.

Adjournment

A Motion was made by Gary Beaström to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 a.m. Seconded by Mark Arend. Motion carried.



Library Board President

Note: These minutes subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for February 17, 2020.