

WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes, October 4, 2006

Welcome: Bryon Sitler welcomed those present and thanked the candidates for attending and taking the time to learn about libraries.

Meeting Dates: Jill Fox moved that the Advisory Council continue meeting on the seconded Wednesday of every month. Jeanette Morrish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Technology Plan: The current 3 year Technology plan expires next year. A committee is needed to decide the future direction of technology for the Cooperative. Lise Mitchell, Mary Chasser and Deana Cunningham will serve on the committee with Bryon Sitler and Sheila Good.

Associate Members: Bryon Sitler reported that the MidMichigan Health Library and the Bay City School System have asked to rejoin as Associate Members. Stephanie Olson moved to approve the two libraries as associate members. Jeanette Morrish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PAC Hug Program: The Library of Michigan and the Cooperative directors will meet next week to work on computer specifications for the bid process to purchase computers through the Gates Grant. \$1,100 (not absolute) will be allowed per computer. Lap tops are permissible. Computers must be used for public use and include no software. Look for more information to come.

Candidate's Forum:

Judge Donoghue: Circuit Judge (75th district)

Serves Midland County. He chose to come even though Coleman is the only library in his district.

Background:

Raised in Midland.
Attended Midland High School.
Taught school in Port Huron.
Attended CMU.

Comments:

It's important to raise issues over and over.
Dollars unlikely to change.
It's important to recognize inequities, especially in schools. Example: Midland Schools have everything, Coleman school has nothing.
Urban areas are not controlling the legislature.
Educate your kids – most important.
Unfortunately when libraries reach and serve children – penal fines go down.

Recommends putting legislators and librarians on buses and taking them out to visit libraries.

Representative Carl Williams (95th district)

Background:

He was raised in the 1st ward in Saginaw.
The horror stories about the hood – all true. The upside – made him believe in the “bottom line.”
He also believes in “Squeaky wheel gets the oil.” Example: motorcycle helmet law.
Motorcycle people visited Lansing in groups on their bikes over a period of time to make their point. Libraries should do the same.

Funding: To increase funding at the state level he would have to convince colleagues. Monies would have to be moved from one budget line to another and when you do that, you are taking away from another.

Recommends:

Make sure legislators do what they say. “Walk the walk and talk the talk.” Make certain they vote correctly on issues. Hold the ones in power accountable.

Terry Brown: (84th district).

Background:

He has never run for office.
He grew up in Pigeon and has lived there all his life.
He is a Pigeon library user – had his wedding reception at the Library.
His children are everyday library users.
Has experience as a minister and principal at Huron Learning Center in Bad Axe.
Believes in intellectual freedom and encourage parents and families to be part of children's activities so they understand the rules.
Believes libraries are the last bastion of freedom.

Funding:

Recommends a 1 cent tax on beer which could bring in over 21 billion dollars to the state.
We need to take a hard look at priorities – what is funded is who we are.

Joel Wilson: (95th district).

Background:

Grew up in Saginaw.
Has experience as a theatre director and historian in Germany.

Intellectual Freedom:

Ideas, written word are free.
Censorship – does not believe in censorship but we need to protect children from predators.

Funding:

Need penal fines – across the board.
Likes Florida model – equalized funds for libraries.
Encourages libraries to band together for impact.

Laws governing libraries need to be cleaned up. Libraries need to start with a clean slate.
Libraries could be grandfathered in so that they are not penalized.
Recommends libraries get together in a group and get organized to address issues.

John Hunt: (84th district).

Background:

He currently he is a business owner. He owns a trucking company.
He has had experience as a road and drain commissioner.

Intellectual Freedom:

He is in favor of intellectual freedom. Information needs to be there for the people.
People need to choose their own opinions.

Funding:

Penal fines have been dropping and will probably continue to do so.

Rural areas need the most funding.
Libraries need to sell their story to the legislature.
Legislators need to be reintroduced to libraries.

Community Reading Program: Due to time restraints, Marsha Boyd's talk on her community reading program will be rescheduled.

Cass City: Kate Van Auken said that she would like to thank the candidates for taking the time to show up and learn about libraries.

Frankenmuth: Carole Collard donated genealogy material to the Wickson Library. Mary brought along some of the materials. Libraries should help themselves.

Iosco-Arenac: The Dobzilla telescope is coming to their area. Friday October 27th, dusk until ? star gazing. Saturday, October 28, will include lectures and information from 3:00-5:00 pm. 8:00 pm - ? guided star gazing.