

MINUTES
FOUNDATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
January 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Steering Committee was called to order by Board President Bonnie Weber at 4:40 p.m.

Present were Mary Bacalles, Peter Gamba, Dale Wexell, Maija De Roche, Sherry Collins and Ristiina Wigg, STLS Director.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The committee reviewed the Foundation vision statement, added the word “library” and adopted the statement:

The Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries partners with public and private sectors to provide outstanding library services to every individual in the Southern Tier Library System area.

The committee reviewed the Foundation mission statement and adopted it:

Believing that free public libraries are essential to our communities, the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries works to promote, fund and support the long-term vitality of the Southern Tier Library System for the benefit of its member libraries.

Rusty Wigg presented a preliminary needs assessment (attached to minutes) developed at a System-wide brainstorming meeting. On December 9th STLS member library directors, trustees and STLS trustees and staff met to create a vision for library service in 2016.

Small groups discussed what would be needed to meet the following library roles in 2012: Early literacy for children from birth to age five; High-speed public internet access; Life-long learning; Safe and welcoming physical and virtual spaces; Library materials to stimulate the imagination; and Supporting adult, teen, and family literacy.

Participants then divided into different groups to discuss what residents will expect from our libraries in 2016, what will help that future come into being; what should be the roles of the Library System and the Central Library; and what should Foundation funding be raised to support. Suggestions for foundation funding were list on sheets posted around the room. Each participant voted for their top five priorities. The needs assessment document attached below lists key suggestions for foundation funding, the items receiving the most votes, and suggested categories which received few or no votes. An online survey will be used to gather additional information.

Dale Wexell led the group in reviewing Articles I and II of the draft by-laws. It was decided that the Foundation's annual meeting will be held the third Wednesday in March, there will be a minimum of nine Directors of the Foundation, that the Board will try to act by consensus, and that potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed. Directors (trustees) may not receive salaries for their services as a Board member, but a director may serve the Corporation (Foundation) in any capacity (other than their services as a member of the Board) and receive compensation for professional services.

A new version of the draft by-laws, incorporating suggested changes made at this meeting will be sent to all committee members along with the minutes. The Steering Committee will continue by-laws review at the next meeting.

Members of the Foundation Board.

Peter Gamba, Penn Yan, agreed to be a Director (Trustee) of the Foundation. The first group of directors will be named in the Certificate of incorporation and will hold office until the first annual meeting of the Board.

Bonnie Weber discussed the need for recruiting additional steering committee members and Foundation directors, particularly people with experience in financial management, fundraising expertise, or legal expertise. Mary Bacalles said that there is an expectation that Corning Community College faculty participate in community activities. Others suggested Elmira College and Keuka College as other possible sources of

Foundation Directors. Peter Gamba suggested that the Steering Committee consider expanding the diversity of the Foundation board by recruiting a college student as a Foundation director.

Topics for February Agenda:

- Continue review of draft by-laws
- Consider DRAFT job description for Foundation Directors
- Publicity and draft logos
- Steering committee members who are willing to serve as members of the Foundation Board

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 2nd, 4:30pm, STLS service center.

Respectfully submitted
Ristiina Wigg