

Minutes of Meeting
Delaware County Law Library Resources Board
January 24, 2021

Present on January 24, 2021: Board Members Scott Gordon, Dorci Gass-Lower, Jonathan Fulkerson, Chuck Curley, and Sarah Huffman, Assistant Prosecutor, Christopher Ballard, and Law Library Director, Juli Jones. Also present were local attorneys, Chad Heald, John Alastra, Judy Maxwell, Cassie Screngi, Catherine Schobert, Scott Miller, Terri Clinger, Bill Leber, and Peter Ruffing.

The meeting was held via Zoom conference and called to order by Scott Gordon at 3:02 p.m.

Scott Gordon began the meeting by welcoming new Board member Sarah Huffman.

Library Move

Scott Gordon discussed the visit some of the Board members had with John Melville to look at the proposed site for the library in the Carnegie Library. Scott discussed the features and layout of the space. The north meeting room wouldn't be specifically designated as library space but would be available for use by the library and its patrons. The south meeting room and the area between the north and south meeting rooms would be designated as library space.

Scott Gordon informed the board that he sent a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the Board's position regarding the space and that access should not be limited to traditional business hours. The Commissioners responded and outlined their position that the north meeting room wouldn't be specifically designated for the library and that there would not be after-hours access. Jonathan Fulkerson raised issues of concern, whether the decision was final or if there was room for discussion, and that this was a fundamental change in the services being offered by the library. Chuck Curley agreed that discontinuing 24-hour access is a fundamental change. Sarah Huffman inquired whether email responses the Board had received had been sent to the Commissioners.

Members of the Bar voiced their concerns. Attorney Chad Heald expressed that there was compelling reasons for unlimited access and designated meeting space and that there is precedent for both and all the Board is requesting was maintenance of the status quo. Attorney Scott Miller inquired whether other law libraries have restricted access. Juli Jones provided information she had received from the Consortium of Law Libraries survey: 41% offer some form of after-hours access and the numbers are going down. She indicated that the survey notes security as a concern. Scott Miller inquired whether it was possible to limit after-hours access just to the library. Scott Gordon indicated it was and that this issue was specifically looked at when the space was toured.

An inquiry was made whether there had been any security incidents in the current space. Juli Jones stated that during her tenure the only issue was with attorneys using the library as an office, which has stopped. Judy Maxwell, former law librarian, stated that there had been issues with porn being downloaded but the installation of cameras stopped that behavior.

It was stated that some of the local judges had expressed concern about the library's access being restricted to business hours. Judy Maxwell raised the potential repercussion that attorneys may have to raise their rates if they need to pay for legal research and meeting rooms. Keeping the status quo, therefore, benefits the citizens of Delaware County.

Magistrate Terrie Clinger expressed that a lawyer's job is not 9-5 and that people need help after-hours and on weekends. This sentiment was also expressed by Attorneys John Alastra and Bill Leber. Question was raised whether funding was an issue. Scott Gordon expressed that he did not believe that to be the case but could inquire and that the Board could explore providing funding if that was the case.

Discussion was held that the Bar would send a letter to the Commissioners and that inquiries would be made of the local judges to also send a letter.

Minutes

Scott Gordon called for a review of the minutes from the December 3, 2020 meeting of the DCLLRB and for comments and revisions thereto. No changes. Motion was made by Chuck Curley to accept the December 3, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Fulkerson and carried by all Board members.

Scott Gordon called for a review of the minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting of the of the visit to the Carnegie Library by members of the DCLLRB and for comments and revisions thereto. No changes. Motion was made by Chuck Curley to accept the December 7, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Fulkerson and carried by all Board members.

Election of Officers

Election of officers was discussed. Dorci Gass-Lower moved to nominate Chuck Curley as recording secretary, who indicated his willingness to serve. The motion was carried by all Board members. Chuck Curley nominated Jonathon Fulkerson as Vice-Chair and Scott Gordon as Chair, both of whom indicate their willingness to continue to serve. The motion was carried by all Board members.

Librarian Performance Review

Juli Jones provided the Board with examples of performance evaluation forms used by other agencies. Scott Gordon indicated that the Board needs to develop a policy/schedule for the review process. Chuck Curley stated that the form should be developed and then implement it with a schedule.

Budget

Juli Jones stated that 2020 was the first year the library spent more money than it brought in. She explained to Sarah Huffman how the library gets its funding and how it was that it could spend more than it brought in.

Items too Late for Agenda

Juli Jones shared the letter she received from Hilborn Insurance regarding renewal of policy. She confirmed that it has already been approved.

Jonathon Fulkerson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dorci Gass-Lower and carried by all Board members. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board is February 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Dorci Gass-Lower, Recording Secretary

