

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
GRANTS COMMITTEE MINUTES – Official
Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.
Lakeland Library Cooperative, Grand Rapids, MI**

Present: Teresa Kline (Chair), Marla Ehlers, Bethany Nettleton, Jackie Roseberry, Heather Wood-Gramza
Staff: Carol Dawe, Janet Cornell

Absent: None

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Kline.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ehlers moved, supported by Wood-Gramza, to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a) Scope of Committee – Dawe shared there are basically 3 levels of grants: small, mid-size, and huge. Library of Michigan has funds available, and the small grants are relatively easy to get. The other two types often require collaborative efforts and should be the focus of the committee. Lakeland cannot help much with additional funding of grants but can help in the support role.
 - b) Youth Services Grant Activity – Nettleton is working with the Youth Services Committee to apply for a mid-size Library of Michigan grant to benefit all the libraries in the cooperative for STEM or STEAM kits. Youth Services has tabled the project until this fall so they could focus on summer reading programs. They have many ideas and the process is just getting underway.
 - c) Library of Michigan Offerings –The Library of Michigan schedule for grant offerings was discussed to be able to put a planning schedule together to meet grant application deadlines. Nettleton already put a schedule together to share with the Youth Services Committee and will send a copy to the rest of the committee.

Committee members shared what types of collaborative grants they have done in the past, as well as ideas discussed in the cooperative, to get an idea for a starting point. Ehlers mentioned they had surveyed their constituents for needs in their community and found 3rd grade literacy, affordable housing, and equity, diversity and inclusion to be the most important. With the 3rd grade literacy law affecting every community in Michigan, the committee decided literacy would be a great starting point.

Dawe stated the committee should be active in networking relationships with partners in the community that could build collaborative efforts. Sometimes being the support infrastructure in the process is more helpful, and she envisioned this could be the role of libraries and the cooperative in these partnerships. Whatever is done should be scalable to fit the needs of the large libraries as well as the small libraries in the cooperative. She suggested we don't need to reinvent the wheel but can look at what other libraries and cooperatives have done in their communities across the country.

Wood-Gramza shared an initiative between Chicago Public Library and the Museum of Science and Industry to pair summer reading programs with science learning, incorporating different learning styles. They were able to see significant changes in their reading scores for those participating. Ehlers mentioned incorporating a summer learning model as a possible idea with Lakeland lending support for gathering data analysis. KConnect and the Literacy Center of West Michigan could be possible collaborative partners in this effort.

Other partners for 3rd grade literacy would also be the schools, which is a hard relationship to foster. Some of the small libraries already have good relationships with their local schools, but the committee felt the ISDs would be a good resource to tap into. Wood-Gramza mentioned the

partnership KDL did with the schools for Booster Packs geared for K-3 that have support materials for literacy. Roseberry also mentioned a MADL partnership that developed sensory-based reading times that were geared for sensory learners, especially autistic groups.

Dawe suggested grouping these ideas together for a large grant through Library of Michigan. The committee can put together a survey to generate ideas for literacy projects to include in the grant.

- d) Assignments – Tasks were assigned to committee members to investigate areas discussed.
- Dawe and Nettleton will look for grant offerings and develop timetables.
 - Wood-Gramza will gather and bring materials she discussed for the next meeting for the committee to look over
 - Ehlers will contact the Literacy Center of West Michigan to gather information, look for parallels and partnerships, and schedule a possible meeting with us.
 - Roseberry will look for what other cooperatives around the country have done.
 - Dawe volunteered having Lakeland use their Survey Monkey subscription to create survey questions to send out. Ehlers mentioned she has a few survey questions they used with their constituents that she will share with the committee.
- e) Meeting Schedule – It was suggested starting with a monthly meeting schedule to get the ball rolling, with Wednesdays a good day for everyone on the committee. The monthly schedule could be revisited once activities have been established.

- 4) **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 9:30 a.m. at Lakeland Library Cooperative
- 5) **ADJOURNMENT:** Roseberry moved, supported by Nettleton, to adjourn at 10:25a.m. - *motion carried.*