

MORE Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, August 1, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Indianhead Federated Library System, Eau Claire

Attending: Kim Hennings (NR) Chair, Hollis Helmecki (LA) Vice-Chair, Christina Jones (AL) Secretary, James Nalen (AM) Member at Large, Lori Roholt (MORE) ex officio. Proxies: Maureen Welch for John Thompson (IFLS).
Also attending: Kathy Setter (IFLS), Julie Woodruff (IFLS).

Call to order: Hennings called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Quorum was established and the meeting was properly noticed under the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approve agenda: (Helmecki/Nalen) MOTION to approve the agenda; PASSED by voice.

Approve minutes: (Helmecki/Nalen) MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2014 meeting; PASSED by voice.

Recommendation on fine waiving programs: DR Moon Library in Stanley recently announced a plan to do Food for Fines on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, as well as an ongoing “read off your fines” program, which prompted a look at the current MORE guidelines for fine waiving programs. Roholt explained that the guidelines were passed by the Directors Council in 2008; there had been discussion to create a policy but at that time decided it would be better to create guidelines. Several libraries emailed comments for discussion to Roholt. Dawn at Rice Lake felt that fine waiving programs should be up to the circulating library and believes the guidelines should stay as they are. She feels this brings up a larger discussion of why libraries fine which are important to consider. Is it to make money or bring things back? How are attitudes about this changing? Virginia from Chippewa Falls emailed to say that at Chippewa fine waiving programs are limited to CFPL fines because it’s simpler. They also request that libraries waive no more than \$5.00 per patron per year with fine waiving programs. Jones commented that while staff tries to comply with this, it can be very difficult to keep track of. Having too many restrictions can make it very hard for staff. Emily at Stanley emailed to say that they have a lot of low income families who need access the most, and donation-based fine waiving programs help the community. She would like to keep her program as is. Sue from Barron emailed to say that Food for Fines is greatly appreciated at her library and patrons look forward to it. She thinks that more libraries not participating hurts the consortium and patrons. Helmecki commented that her library does not participate because they need the revenue. Hennings, Helmecki and Setter expressed concern that with a regularly occurring program patrons would never have to pay their fines, which could have a negative effect on surrounding libraries. Altoona does Food for Fines twice a year – Jones asked does this count as ongoing? Agreement that “ongoing programs” is hard to define.

These comments prompted discussion about the fact that libraries in MORE use fines for different purposes. Some libraries use them solely to get materials back and some libraries really rely on the revenue. Fine waiving programs can be a very positive thing for libraries and patrons, but also need to balance with some libraries’ reliance on fine revenue.

(Hennings/Helmecki) MOTION to make a recommendation to Directors Council to create a policy that fine waiving programs not operating over a specific, finite period be restricted to the waiving library’s materials; PASSED by voice.

Roholt will draft a policy for the next MORE Exec Committee meeting to be recommended to Directors Council if approved. There was also a suggestion to have the MORE Operations Committee create procedures for fine waiving programs such as Food for Fines (for example – using fines paid or fines waived).

Recommendation on use of library department cards: There are currently no guidelines for library department cards. Nalen brought up a situation which several of Amery's new items were being checked out by a library, put on display and then rechecked out to the library when returned. Many libraries create month-long displays from other libraries' materials or place holds for book clubs, but when people check them out and return, they go back to the owning library. Nalen expressed concern that the new items from Amery were being held for a longer period of time. Roholt commented that this seems to be isolated incident that has improved so a policy may not be necessary. She mentioned that it could be helpful to amend the existing policy for use of personal cards for library business with a few examples to clarify what library department cards might be used for. Hennings directly Lori to draft a revised policy to be look at next meeting.

Adjourn: (Welch/Helmeci) MOTION to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. PASSED by voice.