

ZION-BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE MEETING

Zion-Benton Public Library District

Information Services Quiet Study Room.

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting began at 5:40

Jacqueline Holmes, Linda Sandoval, Amy Onan and Linda Stoppenbach were present

Public Comment:

No public attended.

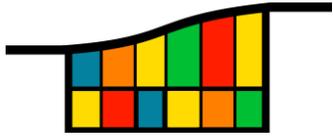
Stoppenbach passed out three handouts:

1. Does Your Board Reflect Your Community? Strategies for Diversifying your Board by Presenter: Stu Wilson Handout from the Illinois Library Association conference.
2. Reports from the Youth Services and Information Services Staff on Current activities to reach out to a diverse community.

There was discussion of the current programs and services for reaching out to diverse groups. The committee acknowledged that many programs were currently being offered, but expressed a desire for the library to eventually perform as well in this area as the Waukegan Public Library. There was concern that patrons, especially Hispanic patrons were traveling to the Waukegan Library because they offered more services.

There was a request for homework help especially during the after school program. Stoppenbach stated that she was working on this, and was in contact with ZB high school librarian, Deb Will, who was willing to provide volunteer high school tutors if students would use them. Stoppenbach would begin experimenting with tutors recruiting her son, high school senior, Jack Stoppenbach, as a volunteer tutor to see if the children would take advantage of high school tutors. Margie Taylor was suggested to Stoppenbach as a good local contact for a tutoring program

The current Park District/ Library Black History collaboration program was discussed. Stoppenbach said that staff members had expressed concern of costs of the program. At \$1600, the program cost far more than the usual program fees of



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\$250-\$350. Staff had also expressed concerns that the program had only a very limited role for the library. At the program, library staff were seated at a table, and program attendees only made contact while waiting in the food line. Finally, staff expressed concern that the program did not cover much history, as it consisted mainly of vocal performances.

The committee provided ideas for alternate programs. The committee requested making contact with Oliva Lasko as she had done a presentation on the Underground Railroad in the area. Holmes promised to provide Stoppenbach with contact information for Lasko. The committee also suggested the possibility local history as it was reported that Christ Community Church in Zion has historically welcomed black church members. Might there be a local expert for a program or presentation? It was suggested to contact the Zion Historical Society.

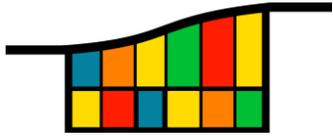
Suggestions were also made for Latin America Programs. Sandoval noted that different Latin American cultures were unique. Sometimes programs presented the region as only having the customs of Mexico. Each county has their own culture and foods. Perhaps a program or fair could highlight this. A passport that needed to be stamped could encourage participants to visit different stations.

An international fair might be a good way to celebrate with Holiday traditions around the world. Stoppenbach provide the newsletter to show that such a program was already planned for December in the library.

Holmes expressed the concern that there was traditionally a lot of emphasis on slavery when teaching black history. Holmes wanted to see discussion on black history in the library widened to include black authors, scientists and leaders.

Stoppenbach noted that 3 staff members would be attending the Guadalajara Book Fair to purchase new Hispanic books for the library collection. Sandoval mentioned that it was possible to purchase books in different Spanish dialects, as many countries had dialects that differed from Mexican Spanish. Stoppenbach promised to make sure the staff members traveling to the fair would be aware of this.

Sandoval mentioned that a useful community contact was B-PAC, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Council. Contacts included Mariel from the library, Amy Gannon and Jessica Pancak



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The committee recommended meeting again on Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30.
Onan agreed to bring food for next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.