

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Central Library Study Committee Meeting
April 13, 2017

The meeting of the Central Library Study Committee was called to order by Dave Donelson, Chair, at 6:01 PM at WLS Headquarters.

Committee members present: Dave Donelson, Susan Morduch, Sean Ryan, Edris Scherer

Also present from WLS was: Terry Kirchner

Guests from the Mount Vernon Public Library and the WLS Board were in attendance.

Mr. Donelson opened the meeting by reading the resolution passed by the WLS board on March 28, which said the WLS President was directed to appoint a committee to discuss the Central library questions involving all parties of interest and reporting in September with no necessary action item involved. He then discussed the goal for this first committee meeting, which was to clarify the activities and roles of the committee members.

The Central Library Study Committee will gather information related to Central Library activities and roles in the Westchester Library System as well as other public library systems throughout New York. The information will help inform the committee on the overarching question: What should the Central Library be in order to best serve the entire system? A report summarizing the information gathered will be reviewed and discussed by the committee at the September 14th meeting and then be shared with the full WLS Board on September 26th. The committee may, but is not required, to make a recommendation for future action. Future meetings will provide opportunities for invested parties to participate with the committee. These invested parties include the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA), New York State Library's Division of Library Development (DLD), Mount Vernon Public Library (MVPL) and its patrons, and WLS staff.

Further discussion identified three core questions to be asked of the invested parties:

1. What do you think is the purpose of the Central Library?
2. What would you like the function of the Central Library to be now?
3. What do you see as the role of the Central Library in the future?

Committee members will reach out to other public library systems in New York to gather different perspectives on Central Library roles and activities. The emphasis will be on understanding how the Central Library is funded, how it has evolved and what anticipated changes may occur in the future. The cooperative public library systems to be contacted and the committee member to initiate the contact are shown below:

- Four County Library System (Dave Donelson)
- Mid-Hudson Library System (Susan Morduch)
- Nassau Library System (Edris Scherer)
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System (Sean Ryan).

Mr. Kirchner will provide contact information and an overview of each of these systems' Central Library's budget and collection size/services supported (if available) to the committee members.

Each committee member was asked to prepare a list of questions that they would like asked at upcoming meetings and/or with the system directors to be interviewed. The questions for the scheduled meetings should be sent to Mr. Donelson at least one (1) week in advance of the pertinent meeting while the questions for the system directors will be prepared once Mr. Kirchner provides his initial report. Mr. Donelson will explore options for soliciting comments and feedback or other input into the process from the public. Comments from the public will be heard at the MVPL meeting.

The schedule for upcoming meetings shown below was reviewed:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Focus</u>
Thursday	4/13	6:00 PM	WLS	Organizational
Thursday	5/18	9:30 AM	WLS	PLDA
Thursday	6/8	6:00 PM	WLS	NYDLD
Thursday	7/13	7:00 PM	MVPL	MVPL
Thursday	8/10	6:00 PM	WLS	WLS Staff
Thursday	9/14	6:00 PM	WLS	Review
Tuesday	9/26	6:00 PM	WLS	Board Report

Committee members asked Mr. Kirchner to research answers to the following questions to provide a context for current Central Library activities:

1. How many items are identified as belonging to the Central Library collection?
2. Where do these items reside?
3. What circulation statistics are available for these items?
4. What is the budget history that has supported Central Library activities?
5. What is the scope of the digital Central Library collection?
6. What usage statistics are available for the digital items?
7. What training activities have been supported through the Central Library budget?

Mr. Kirchner will work with WLS staff on the above issues raised prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Kirchner will confirm with DLD that they are able to send a representative to the June 8th meeting at 6:00 PM. Mr. Donelson will follow up with the Mount Vernon Public Library to confirm that the proposed July 13th meeting can be held in that library.

Having completed its agenda, the committee adjourned the meeting at 6:43 PM.