

**WLS Board – Strategy Committee
Minutes - April 12, 2021 (held via Zoom)**

In attendance:

Karen Zevin (District 1)
Jonathon Marshall (District 2)
Susan Morduch (District 6), Board President
Denise Matthews-Serra (District 11)
Karen Kelley (District 12)
Julie Mills-Worthey (District 13)
Francis Okelo (District 14), Committee Chair
Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director

Meeting began at 6:00 PM.

Francis Okelo reviewed the meeting agenda and the meeting notes. He reminded everyone that many potential ideas and questions were raised during the March 15th meeting and referral to these meeting notes would help committee members keep these ideas and questions in mind while planning the future directions of WLS.

From the March 15, 2021 notes:

Potential ideas and questions to explore in more detail in the future were discussed. These included:

- What are other public library systems in NYS and elsewhere doing?
- Does WLS need to more clearly reflect a shift to community engagement as well as the activities that support the member libraries?
- To what extent does (and should) WLS protect its tangible and intangible assets?
- What strategies would best allow for the protection and promotion of the ILS?
- How should WLS provide support in the hybrid environment going forward?
- What types of services and technology to the member libraries will WLS be able to fully support going forward?
- Is it realistic for WLS to provide best of breed solutions and processes as outlined in the WLS Strategy Proposal?

Terry Kirchner reviewed the WLS Overview document (see attached).

Francis Okelo led a discussion on the WLS Strategy Proposal document (see attached).

The committee also discussed the current WLS Vision Statement and recommended that this statement be reviewed and updated to better reflect the current WLS activities and goals and better reflect WLS's dual community engagement roles.

The current WLS Vision Statement:

WLS will serve as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. We will provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

The question of how the State, County and member libraries view the Mission and Vision of WLS was raised as something to explore in more depth.

The following points were made during the discussion of the WLS Strategy Proposal document:

Shared Goals section:

- May need to be more thorough on the steps needed in order to accomplish the goals
- What is the impact of the proposed shared goals on the WLS organization as it is currently set up? The committee should remain open-minded in how to make these new ideas come to life.
- The focus as currently written is only there to support the member libraries and does not directly address the dual mission that includes WLS's community engagement activities.
 - Is there a way to elevate the community engagement activities to show more of a balance between WLS's supporting role and leading role?
- The world of libraries is changing – how do we present this?
- “Intersection” might be a better connotation for what we mean by shared goals.
- What is the future of WLS and what does it want to be?
 - Based on the needs and desires of the patrons and member libraries?
- What is unique to WLS?
- What is unique to the member libraries and how is WLS supporting them?

The Chair requested Karen Zevin and Terry Kirchner to work on revision for the Shared Goals section and the WLS Vision Statement, to be considered at the committee's next meeting.

Critical Need for Change section:

- Need to bring the community engagement portion forward more effectively.
- In the 2nd bullet point, add the word “partners” to read “Develop and support knowledgeable library staff, trustees, communities and partners.”

Strategic WLS Priorities section:

- To be addressed once the Shared Goals and Critical Need for Change sections, as well as the Vision Statement, have been discussed by the committee and updated.

Committee members are encouraged to send ideas and feedback concerning potential changes to the WLS Strategic Priorities document or the Vision Statement to Terry Kirchner. This should be done as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the month (April) so that a revised version can be considered by the committee at its next meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Meeting notes submitted by Terry Kirchner