

COMPASS USERS' GROUP

DRAFT

Meeting minutes of Wednesday, December 2, 2009

DRAFT

Members present:

Paula Chapman/Aurora, Debby Bocnuk/Babbitt, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, Carla Powers/Duluth, Marcia Anderson/Grand Rapids, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf/Hibbing, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams/International Falls, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Julie Billings/Silver Bay, Sue Heskin/Two Harbors, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia; Mark Koukol/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

Introductions were made by all present.

Approval of COMPASS minutes for October 28 meeting: M/S Lukkarila/Richmond. **Approved.**

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES

Questions or problems with Horizon functions:

- Several libraries have noticed patrons' holds disappearing. This is probably due to human error.
- A couple of libraries occasionally have their pull list come up blank. This is probably due to an internet connection problem.

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- Horizon will be down for an upgrade January 6-7. Before the upgrade, staff need to update to the newest version of Java on all staff computers which run Horizon. Once the system is back up, Mark will contact libraries to coordinate the server-pushed upgrade. Mark will set Horizon so that no items will be due on January 6 or January 7. Because the system will be down, no email or phone notices will go out on those two days.

Election of 2010 COMPASS Officers:

- Secretary Paula Chapman requested she not be re-nominated for the position this term. Calls were made for nominations. Nominated were:
 - President: Nancy Maxwell
 - Vice President: Sue Heskin
 - Secretary: Marcia Anderson
- A vote was called for the above slate/**APPROVED**

Staff reports: Mark Koukol

- The state requires putting library internet service out to bid each year in order to qualify for e-rate. The process is complicated because Horizon functions differently on different connection systems; having a web-based rather than a server-based product would resolve many of these difficulties. The RFP has already gone out. NESC is working on a fiber project.
- At this point, SirsiDynix has not given any indication of an end-of-life date for Horizon. Although some in the library community have expressed concern about open source products, and Koha is now offering a closed version available only to paying customers, several library systems are going with open source ILS products. PALS is now in beta-testing with Evergreen, which is becoming more consortia-friendly, and they anticipate going live in May.

- Windows Defender, a free download from the Microsoft web site, is one source to protect computers from the current round of web-based pop-up window infections.
- Robert is working on setting the calendar of libraries' closed dates in Horizon.

Other:

- If the library is getting a NEW computer, Mark recommends getting the 32-bit version of Windows 7. (It is not necessary to upgrade to Windows 7 on existing computers.)

LIBRARY ISSUES

What's happening at your library?

- Mary L./Cloquet—The “Alaska Faraway” program was a smashing hit. It was held on a Saturday morning; 107 people attended. Next summer is the 75th anniversary of the movement; the producer is willing to come from California to a showing if there are enough showings in the area. Most of the emigrants were from St. Louis and Carlton counties. The Cloquet Public Library recently replaced lighting and should save significant money on electric bills. Motion-sensor lights were installed in lesser-used rooms. The library foundation paid for the work, and the library will also receive rebates from Minnesota Power.
- Ginny R./Hibbing—Ginny will find out at tonight's City Council meeting if they will be able to replace the middle section of the library roof.
- Marcia A./Grand Rapids—The Grand Rapids library had repairs done to the roof and skylights. They are replacing carpeting in the work room over Christmas week, and will be open to the public with limited services. The Grand Rapids Public Library will not be filling holds over Christmas week.
- Paula C./Aurora--Aurora Public Library now has wireless internet available. Based on the library's experience, Mark warned that libraries getting wireless should be sure to test the connection speed and make sure that the library is getting what it's paying for. (The initial router sent to the library was bad, causing a slow speed.)
- Julie B./Silver Bay—The Silver Bay Public Library will be getting wireless internet on July 1.
- Debby B./Babbitt—The library will need to replace its fax machine soon and Debby wondered if any libraries are using a copier/fax/printer combo. She was warned to check the toner costs before purchasing anything.
- Carla P./Duluth –Duluth selected Barbara Kingsolver's Animal, Vegetable, Mineral for this year's One Community/OneBook title. The Virginia Public Library also chose this title. (Rebecca P./ALS noted that since the Minnesota Discovery Center is currently closed, they will not be coordinating an Iron Range Reads program this year.) Duluth is doing their program in April, and will send information about related events out to the ASCOLD list. Carla met with Roger Reinert to discuss his proposal to charge non-residents for library cards; he wishes to pursue this issue in the upcoming legislative session.

Discussion about how local Friends groups function

- The role of the Friends of the Library varies according to each library and its group. Some groups function very independently, while others require more time and involvement from library staff on fundraising and events. Some groups work closely with the Library Staff and Board on library needs, and monies raised are used to fill those needs; other groups are more reluctant to part with funds raised.

OverDrive: downloadable e-books?

- Rebecca has received three requests for downloadable e-books and she inquired if there was wide interest. Some concern was expressed that titles would be limited to one format and would only work

for a small group of patrons. It was suggested that if there are funds in the budget, a selection of downloadable e-books should be ordered and made available on the OverDrive site. Rebecca will look into the issue further and send out information.

“Legacy Amendment” projects & evaluation of Terrence Smith programs:

- Terrence Smith put together an information sheet about the programs he had done to date. The Duluth Public Library incorporated him into their regular story time; Babbitt had an intergenerational event, combined with a warm clothing drive and a Community Ed. Bake sale. Cloquet says their Community Ed. Program would have liked to have been involved. Rebecca noted that it’s a good idea to network and partner with local groups for the Legacy programs.
- The Perpich Center for the Arts has two Duluth students who will be presenting a classical music program. There may be two more Duluth students who may do a program in Cloquet.
- April is National Poetry month; if you are interested in scheduling a Legacy event at your library and have not done so, please contact Rebecca.
- Rebecca is working on the Museum Passes program. Patrons can check out a pass at the library (ALS will catalog the pass; this will allow usage stats to be collected through Horizon). Patrons will then receive a business-sized card which they will present to the museum. The museums will only bill ALS for passes actually used.

2010 meeting dates & times

- January 27
- No February meeting (Feb. 24 is Library Legislative Day)
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26
- No June or July meetings
- August 25
- The remaining meetings will be scheduled later in the year.

Staff reports: None

NCLC: No report.

Other:

- Virginia Public Library just got Brainfuse. While there are some similarities to the Learning Express Library, Brainfuse also includes access to a live 24-7 online tutor. Hoyt Lakes Public Library is looking into Brainfuse and Tutor.com.
- Sue H./Two Harbors asked if any libraries are sending out newsletters by email. Hibbing patrons may sign up to receive emails about library events. Grand Rapids uses Google Groups to send text with library events. Two Harbors Public Library is trying to integrate its page on Facebook® with its blog. Hibbing Public Library blog entries also go out on Twitter™; Nancy has not yet found a way to have blog entries automatically go to the library’s page on Facebook.®
- Cloquet Public Library is beginning to buy some movies in Blu-ray format and wondered if any other libraries are doing so. Virginia Public Library and ALS are phasing out VHS movies.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 27, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary