

Collaborative Governance Council

League of Minnesota Cities Building

145 University Avenue, St. Paul

Wednesday, November 16

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Members Present

Kyle Harnett, Minnesota Association of Townships

Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Jennifer O'Rourke, League of Minnesota Cities (for Mary Hamann-Roland)

Valerie Rolstad, SEIU

Jack Swanson, Association of Minnesota Counties

John Thorson, AFSCME (for Ken Loeffler-Kemp)

Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota

Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair

Members Absent

Grace Keliher, Minnesota School Board Association

Others Present

Valerie Dosland, Intermediate School Districts

Carol McFarlane, State Representative

Mark McKenna, Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy

Gene Short, City of Currie

Jane Vanderpoel, Dakota County

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Auditor Rebecca Otto called the meeting to order.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Valerie Rolstad moved to approve the meeting minutes with a minor edit. Gary Westorff seconded; motion carried with John Thorson, Kyle Hartnett, and Jennifer O'Rourke abstaining.

III. Presentation on Libraries

- a. Nancy Walton, the State Librarian, presented information on how library services are delivered across the state. She explained of the collaborative and cooperative structure of library services in Minnesota and explained the funding streams for libraries, both state and local. She noted that some cities are concerned about whether their counties are paying their fair share for library services.
- b. Commissioner Swanson asked Ms. Walton to discuss the pluses and minuses of local libraries co-locating with school libraries. Ms. Walton explained that this type of arrangement has often not worked out in the long run when attempted. It can be a contentious process, and policies and procedures can be an issue. Gary Westorff followed up with a question about staff licensing issues in co-locating, and Ms. Walton explained that it needs to be worked out with the school district.

- c. John Thorson asked how library resources are shared across the state, and Ms. Walton explained that the decision is made at the local level, often based on space consideration.
- d. Commissioner Swanson asked if there were barriers to a public/private partnership for library services such as locating the library facility in a coffeehouse. Ms. Walton said that there are no barriers, but that it's important to have a contract to make sure the library space is protected. If the coffeehouse closes, an express library can lose their space.
- e. Commissioner Swanson requested the Council look further into financial collaboration between cities and counties and their libraries. Jen O'Rourke mentioned a piece done for House Research on Maintenance of Effort. Ms. Walton suggested that Amy Wilde, former Meeker County Commissioner, who served on a Maintenance of Effort study committee as well as several other efforts involving libraries, would be a good presenter. Ms. Walton also offered to return if the Council was interested.

IV. Review of Potential Topics for Council

- a. The discussion of the Topic Survey was postponed to the next meeting.

V. State/Local Relationship

- a. Rep. McFarlane asked if the Council would be interested in presenting the CGC's legislative report to the State Government Finance Committee on Tuesday, December 6 at 11:00 AM. The Committee is currently working on redesign issues. Members of the Council expressed interest in appearing.

VI. Other Business

- a. Mark McKenna, Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy, distributed a flyer on the Journal's upcoming Symposium on Collaborative Governance on March 16, 2012 at Hamline. Members of the Council have been invited to appear at the Symposium.
- b. The Council discussed a possible next meeting date of December 14. All members in attendance said they would be available on that date.

VII. Adjournment

- a. The Chair adjourned the meeting.