



Beloit's
**LITERACY
FOR LIFE**
Initiative

Friday October 18, 2019
MINUTES

Present: Lisa Sandoval, Devin Blay-Stahl, Drew Pennington, Lori VanCoulter, Regina Dunkin, Ana Montoya, Sarah Millard, Michele Erikson, Melody Wirgau, Tara Tinder, Bill Flanagan, Jan Knutson, Laura Anastasi, Julie Brady, Debbi Fischer, Josh Lock, Sue Stein, Emma.

1. Welcome and Announcements from Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF

- Nov 6 at 11 am (Grand opening) - new Reading tree at the library (leaf to go on tree for each goal reached -100 children goal by 2020) and artist will be on hand.
- Highlights of speakers/program: Sue Stein (HealthNet) and Gloria Heiss (UW-Madison) with literacy work in Madison (goal of bringing a book bus to Beloit).
- Kudos to Melody Wirgau and Mary Ellen Fuentes with Durham school bus literacy project. Together they've provided bags of books for Todd students to read while in transit during morning and afternoon routes.
- Last 2019 Farmers Market: Tara and Bill will give out candy and books to children in costume. Set up is next to the Y2Youth 4 Change community booth. Nicole at Parks & Rec will provide books on the front end of parade and SCF at the terminus.

2. Updates and Thoughts for 2019 -2020 from Bill Flanagan, Chair

- Meetings moving forward are last Friday of each month at the Beloit Public Library, with a few exceptions for holidays: See note at close of minutes...
- We need "shovel ready" projects that can be part of a game plan to formulate a budget and put in front of the large stakeholders that are part of the SCF donor pool.
- Future focus/goals for the initiative to remain in perpetuity (ie: Rudder group, community input & players, location). Everyone's time and input is invaluable!
- Reiterate that this initiative is being discussed in the local philanthropy circles!
- Success Stories: Bookcase at CareerTek raffle: winner was BEYOND ecstatic!
- Michelle Erikson- Executive Director, Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.
 - Conference in Appleton: Literacy models (part of pro-literacy, the national model), changing in funding models (how it must collaborate with communities)
 - Continue bringing parents and key community allies to push forward
 - Menominee Nation - fantastic model focused around education & health. [video](#) Won a prestigious grant (bottom of rankings in health/drop-out factory...less than 60%): '07 - started work and have moved the needle to 90% completion. Example of stop lights (green/yellow/red) for students to indicate daily mental status.

3. Reading Strategies and Updates for Partners from Rachelle Elliott, SDB

- To speed up access to Wild Sky books, might need to sort books from palette (4 palettes since January). Youth2Youth 4 Change might have student volunteers.
- Calendar (bilingual) and several handouts for landmarks (Read Aloud.org)
- Ages: 0-5 Beloit free books, need fixed address (issue: books returned as undeliverable those going to Janesville United Way...not sure about Beloit PO): Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - 250 spots available but need parents to share email (another access issue). Looking for Spanish versions.
- Positive collaboration w/St. Paul's soup lunch kitchen (students AND adults)
- Family Promise - story time and video sing along
- Family Services: Domestic Abuse and Teen Parent program - Rachelle is hoping that she can transition parents to take on a leadership role as they're very responsive.

- Rachelle has some available structures for Talking is Teaching playground structure with literacy pieces (prompts). Template for signs for “make your own” to add to existing park structures. (NOTE: Hendricks could make metal signs?) Target spots are Hackett, Merrill and Summit Parks and perhaps along the Riverwalk with scavenger hunt type activities. Welty has done something along these lines. FEEDBACK needed for how this would fit into partner missions...NEED to put a visionary price tag and dialogue first with City Parks & Rec. They have signage plans in the works with United Way, so need to set up a meeting and work on the parameters/going through the process and accepting of gifts. Can we look at adopting a park? Same for the schools - need to look at liability concerns.
- WICK office activities have expanded during dental day!

4. Partner Sharing and Discussion

- **Melody Wirgau (SDB):** thinking of having books at the correctional facilities for when children go to visit parents. Big push for Academic Parent Teacher Teams: 3X year/ providing books to families along with regular activities
- **Michelle Erikson** - Referenced [Beloit College's Miller Upton Forum](#). Notable speakers Dipesh Navsaria and Carolyn Heinrich.
- **Josh Lock (Culvers):** 11/6 Shakes w/Sheriffs; 11/14 – Snappers; 11/15 -Red Kettle Campaign Bookmark program. Thanks to SCF, books at these free events!
- **Sarah Millard: City of Beloit (Parks & Rec)** -This spring: Splash pads being introduced in a few parks, updates to others. Firefighter's working with students.
- **Lori VanCoulter (Stateline Literacy Council):** Working with Jan Knutson at St. Paul Lutheran's soup lunches to help with adult literacy.
- **Drew Pennington: City of Beloit (Inspection/Transit)** - New bus signs are a shovel ready project! Tara asked him to provide a dollar amount to support :)
- **Regina Dunkin (BHS)** Reach Out & Read Videos are in works to stream in lobbies!
- **Debbie Fisher (Y2Y4Change)** - Free Little Libraries in Brooks and Field parks: Spoke of interest in having books as prizes for middle schoolers who might struggle.
- **Devin Blay-Stahl (Family Promise)**- up to 14 individuals (3-4 families Guests can stay for 30 days and we help them find housing (6 months follow up support). Day Center is on Bluff Street / at night, will go in to the congregations. Volunteers work 5 pm - 7 am (600 volunteers). Shower facilities are now available. No playground now, on Day of Caring new one in the works!
- **Ana Montoya (Community Health Services)** - Focusing on literacy for good health outcomes. Book metrics matched how many people they have serviced. Reminder of Trunk or Treating (Oct 24) with special guest Oscar Mayer weiner mobile; Cookies w/Santa (Dec 4). Usborne Books available.
- **Laura Anastasi (RSVP-Rock - Senior Living)** - Pairing books with seniors & kids.
- **Lisa Sandoval (Early Head Start):** Meeting w/pregnant women for children birth until age 3. Hosting 3 family nights over next 5 months...can give a book to choose for each client (400).
- **Sue Stein (HealthNet /WICK)** - Noted interest in her program after speaking at SCF annual meeting. Has 2 upcoming events (35th anniversary year) - 450 books distributed this month...not new but previously loved. 150 from us and 300 @ 59 cents - cardboard. For programs, they are buying new books. WI WICK programs are receiving copies of Sylvia's Spinach via a grant.
- **Jan Knutson (St. Paul Soup Lunch)** - Little Library books have disappeared quite quickly. Also being filled by Rachelle, thrilled to have her assistance Wednesdays!

5. New Business - NONE

6. Next Meeting Date – November 22 at BPL (last Friday of each month moving forward, w/exception of Friday prior if a holiday conflict)
- 2019 - 11/22, 12/20 (Riverside Room)
 - 2020 - 1/31, 2/28, 3/27 (Riverside Room), 4/24, 5/29, 6/26, 7/31, 8/28, 9/25, 10/30, 11/20 and 12/18 (Riverside Room)

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 am

Notes respectfully submitted by Jamie Gurholt on 10/25/19