

Library Committee

Minutes

June 20, 2008

Present: Hobart, James, Manning, Rothstein, Grant,
Gifford, Rorabaugh, Ryan, and Rose

Absent: Mossel, Randle, and Sobers

Chair Luanne Rothstein called the meeting to order at approximately 8:06 a.m. at City Hall. A presentation from Hartzell-Mika followed.

Comments from the meeting as follows:

Big Rapids is a class IV Library. The Library is well used and has a high circulation with a very small staff.

Will the Library be kept at status quo or do we want to improve what we have – larger place, more staff, more services?

Some want to see a community library that becomes an attractor for the community. Does this mean we need a new building?

The 800-pound elephant is a District Library. Is it viable at the point? It probably wasn't a good time back in 2003 to approach BRHS for district money. A disadvantage for District Library is that once one is established, it may shut off partial areas of townships.

Funding was talked about briefly. A plan needs to be established so we know how much money will be needed.

Leaders need to be identified in the townships.

Distinguish between needs and wants. Not duplication of services – need to build strengths.

Not a wealthy county – additional millage will probably not pass.

I had to leave for another appt but the next meeting will be July 17th @ 6:30 p.m. at City Hall and the next meeting to follow will be July 31st @ 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

