Focus Group October 21, 2011

Parking Lot (of ideas)

Page 1:

H2 be a resource the individual OWWL Libraries need as financial resources dwindle

IWWMW encourage the "using" public to contribute to their local lib.

How can we find new funding?

H2 – garner local business support & sponsorship for library project

H2 – demonstrate <u>concrete</u> examples of libraries' value for a community to local officials who vote on funding

Open communication from PLS to member libraries

Individual community understanding (on the part of system staff)

Identify needs

Occasional "small group" meetings of libraries of similar size

Trustees need to understand how PLS works

Set High standards of service

Stop being competitive & territorial

Good written policies

Member libs must be more self sufficient

Well trained system staff

Follow the PR plan started by Kim Iraci + focus more on being OWWL libraries 1st and local libraries 2nd

Standardized cataloging practices

Mentoring between libraries

Rely on libraries to be responsible

Use /reuse what you have – re-evaluate

Hold accountability for meeting them

Well trained library staff

Clone Betsy's positive attitude

Good principles of library service

Facebook social media

More resource sharing w/ libraries; i.e. sets of books

Libraries with experienced staff mentor new staff at other libraries - mentor program

Use volunteers in creative ways

Cross training system staff

SKYPE

Make twiki easier

Do we want more $ to continue the status quo or to make progress?

Communicate effectively

New funding streams

Effectively: funding – alternative funding

New ways to do "old" things

Ask patrons at member libraries for assessment of effectiveness.

Think out of the box

Use retired [ltn???]

Let go of "now we used to/always have/should do" things

Repurpose things, people, programs

Grant writing for implementing new ideas

Group orders for successfully innovative tools

Suggestion box in lib.

New uses for old resources

Ask ourselves why we do what we currently do

Improve communication between PLs and member libraries.

Survey member libraries for needs.

Utilize central library services.

Contest for new ideas

Use tele-conferencing for training

Make 42 libs branches?

Effectively: consolidating

Parking lot, page 2:

How can we partner with private business or local community organizations to raise funds?

Enc – attendance at mtgs where funding can be discussed: eg. Town, school bds

Fund Drives

Beg

Prioritize needs – BEG!

Collect cans & bottles & get deposits.

Print money

Lock people in library basement 7 they have to collect $$ to get out.

Dinners

Sales – eg. Turtle covers; Boutique w/ donated items or other

Secondary funding: Donations - books, DVDs, etc.; Sponsor – author

Put ads on everything like a pepsi-cola, school bus

It is not the only obstacle

Staff rotations (PLS, members)

"corporate" matching for fund raisers

Consolidate/share services between libraries

Prof. donation day

Apply for grants other than state foundations

Remember leave the library in your will.

Adopt a shelf

Get supplies donated like toilet paper

Slave/auction date

Charge patrons per delivery

Privatize libraries

Circ analysis of items

Consolidate

Delivery

Exactly what can PLS afford?

Eliminate services

Bigger hats

Email

Smoke signals

If we can't afford them, do we need it?

What is reasonable?

Limit delivery

Don't ask PLS for frivolous things

Free lunch for PLs Board

Only loan little books

Reliable communication between directors & staff

Come to understanding about needs – and what can be afforded

NASCAR ads

Delivery

Sell apples on street corner

Ask for money

Unreasonable to expect what we afforded 2 years ago

Friendlier drivers

Get bigger trucks

Consolidation of systems administration

Electric shock for those wasting time – whining

Re-evaluate; re-use what you've got

Member collaborate to promote "can't do, can't afford" list

Take risks

Don't duplicate efforts of other agencies

Set aside time to think "out-of-the-box"

Better consensus building

Meeting specific to different size/governance libraries

"support groups" by library type or size

Shift some responsibilities onto member libraries

Not accept back-channel/ passive/gossip as means of communicating needs

Establish best practices

Unify our purpose

Library tours

Staff exchange system-library

Staff exchange library –library

Staff exchange

Weekly new service email blasts

We need a spokes bird – err owl, err owlet

Parking lot, page 3:

Shoeshines

Cookbook

Home & garden tours

Auction

Carnival with kissing booth and dunking booth for librarian

Rummage sales

Old movie night

Book sales

Field trip

Sponsor: walkathon, read-athon, dance cont to raise sash –goal

Small targets – garage sale

Obit. In lieu of flowers- enlist funeral directors

Offer speakers to other community groups

Discover history of library's ghost and offer midnight tours

Piggy banks

Celebrity sponsor

Scavenger hunt: inside library & on the grounds

Offer services for fee: horoscopes?

Rob a bank

Donations

Grants

Apply to United Way

"court" private donors for special projects

Invite celebrities

Signature fundraising event for system

Businesses give $

Stores % donations

Seek community funding

Optional pay for delivery & pickup of materials at patron homes

PLS-needs to respond-What is possible

Read so many books 7 raise $, the librarian gets duct-taped to the wall

Use local patrons "crafters": to donate items for raffle $

Solicit contributions: schmooze community leaders, rotary, fraternal orders

Amazon.com booksale on website

What can we learn from Apple, Netflix, Facebook

Win the lotto and give appropriate funding

Donald trump sponsors Library System Apprentice

Find a sugar daddy

Find a fairy godmother

Visit other NYS systems to view funding steps/ideas

Get a sponsor such as "XYZ" co. & slap the logo on everything

Move into member library facility

Address the disparity between 31c/capita for unserved users & $9.25/capita for inmates

Increase public voting awareness

Friends group

Solicit bequests

Educate legislators – beat them up

Monetize non-mandated services

Rely on individual libraries to be fiscally responsible

Demonstrate value to community

Planned visits to legislators local offices (not Leg Day)

Charge for OOS users

Go to 8 days a week

Switch back to the lunar calendar & get 13 mos/yr

Private funding

Charge for out-of-system cards

Education: users, staff, trustees, community

Sponsors: wegmans, tops, timeWarner,Pro Sports teams, craft foods, wal mart, trash removal companies (cansella),Constellation Brands, Barilla, Crossman

System staff CE fund raffles at Annual dinner 7 system mtg (50/50)

More open source solutions, sonic wall to ipCop

Show the importance of libraries to political officials

Library makeover show

Get politicians to make property assessments part of library funding for services provided

Survey of users via email – direct appeal for system wide services eg. OWWL2go

Rent out libraries for activities/parties when closed

Better comm. Support

Kidnap legislators and ransom them

Redirect categorical aid

Business sponsorship

Sharing services libr to libr, rather than system to libr

Volunteers to deliver totes to libraries

Be loud, be proud to public & state funders

Foundations

More diverge funding sources

Use existing fundraising strategies like – recycling, (clbita), or webservice that allows you to recycle toner & donate $ to a non-profit

Major company interest/funding

Mandate

Make plans & follow them: don't start on the prep work, build in possibility of failure

Visits from representative to libraries to system- village, town, county, state

Ask community what they are willing to pay for; What is a good cause for them?

Bequests

Charge for OOS patrons – offer delivery & pickup service to patron homes – PR/Marketing

Advocacy: users, staff, trustees, community

Visits to representatives: village, town, county, state

Bring funders into libraries, esp. govt officials

Concerts

Product sales: book bags, ebook readers, jump drives

Community partnership

Fund drives: huge-giant yard sale, donations from Can and member libraries; hunter's donations mount best head in library

List what is provided NOW; then what is "wish list"; make mission statement clear & direct; SET GOALS

No longer ask PLS to provide the "circulating art collection"

Offer on-site training – share different skills & ideas

See what libraries need

Hire friendly people who deliver to member libraries in their home town

ILL

Make staff more efficient

Keep an open mind

Keep science reference up to date

More ebooks

Take a course in survival training

Talk to PLs staff more often

Grants

Library pays for OOS users

Target services to community segments

Have PLs work in member libraries

Generate list of services from members

Cutback on ILL

PLS partners with member libraries to offer support and coordination so patrons have easy, reliable access to services.

No reply ALL emails

Hire more staff at PLs to handle the responsibilities and consider serious evaluation of salaries

Parking lot, page 4:

Tired of talk-What can we cut

(Compare model) "PLS" our system with other systems or similar size in us

Try something new and collect feedback

Invite outside commentary

Take risks

Invite community involvement

Contact professionals already using

State of art equipment

Stop saying "…well…", "…no."

Learn what technology would be useful for your needs

Involve multiple educational levels

Throw out state mandates

Identify best practices for service models

Pay a fair salary

Know what new technology is available

Pay attention to local media-radio, TV, newspaper-and talk about it in the library

Visit NASA

Intern at Apple, Inc.

Pool from MENSA

Survey patrons to see what they value

Weighted voting

Group libraries by size to solve common problems

Consolidate some libraries

Work with other agencies – use their resources

Patron volunteers

Establish templates for member libraries in accordance with services demanded by size

Think simply

Encourage ALL STAFF of ALL LIBRARIES to share ideas; consensus building

Test groups to experiment with new ideas/technology

Think about what needs to be done & how to fit into it, not now we are & how to fit in what needs to be done

Define parameters

Be vocal

Affect change of mandates

Have a brain-storming session and rank them

Better communication

What are the duties/job descriptions of PLS staff

Weigh needs vs. $ available

Survey system members about preferences

Look at trends – what are we not doing?

Schedule focus groups to help PLS determine priorities

Gather information know what questions to ask (inform. needed)

Determine where to go & how to get there – those become priorities

Community surveys

How it effects patrons

Get out of our collective comfort zones

What services would patrons be willing 2 pay to keep?

What can be delegated to member libraries? Ex. Or shared among member libraries

Make certain PLS services more of a paid consultant w/ options of what each member library needs

Hold a retreat for librarians in Hawaii so we can really get down to deciding priorities

Survey patrons about priorities

Sleep on it

Poll libraries

What can be cut

Bulls eye method – shot an arrow

All libraries in PLS close for 2 days- we would know what patrons really want by their reaction to the closings

What do mandated services cost?

How can outreach (as an example) be expanded to benefit

Member libraries

Expand range def. of mandates to benefit members

Reassess current services for more economy

By vote of member libraries

In order for PLS to set priorities they must know member library needs and priorities.

What services would member libraries be willing to pay for? Pick & choose what ala carte

Member libraries need to know what PLS costs/services are negotiable and set priorities.

Worst case scenario planning

Ask teen/tweens to be current

Re/use what you have; re-evaluate

Let go—

Work towards consistency

Influence legislators positively

Use list-serv to share programming successes *dedicated e.g. Youth blog

H2 be innovative effectively

Be vocal

"Charter school type" lottery method for priorities

Being kind to check lady

Pull from hat

Process of elimination

Do current services meet library needs?

Parking lot, page 5:
SOA challenge sheet staff/trustees

Benefit analyses

Training w/in counties

Phrase practices etc. in non-library terms

Match WIIF <u>us</u>, WIIF <u>them</u>

Youth consultant @ PLS

Use scalable test cases to prove that initiatives work

Encourage PLs Board to visit library Board meetings

Pay for services used.

More "staff" at PLS to relieve duties

Rely on local library staffs to assist PLS staffs in training & source of information.

E-seminars? YouTube

E-book training with hands on

Develop boards that reflect community demographics

Thinking about the "nostalgia factor" and what makes that important – how to keep that feeling using new tools

Ask politicians

Have neighboring boards meet regularly to share, compare and learn

Give meaningful incentives to attend training $$, extra service $$ from sponsorships

Make sure every library is offered same training

Better evaluation metrics

Lead in outreach in agencies that are regional – pull member lib into their service – what lib can do for them

Surveys to find wants & needs

Make property assessment be proportioned with local library funds- to keep funding up - for libraries

IT person/people on the go/as needed…

Encourage local library trustees to visit PLS Board meetings

Required trustee training (similar to school boards)

Trustee education

Accept that failure might happen and learn from it

Wegmans/Nordstrom practices for all members

Demonstrate current technology; explain how to discern best buys

Bring experts (like the legal issues try recently)

Address specific needs per library

Address special needs/wants according to size

Increase PLS's push for staffing participation in conferences, YSS for example

How to sue creative studies to broaden how everyone involved is things

Create web-based trainings

Keep technology current; hardware & use of

Better assistance for "non-librarians"

"Circuit librarian" consultant librarian to support libraries w/specialized lib tasks to enable libraries to focus on community tasks

Encourage open-mindedness

Train/teach "newbies"

Teach basic computer skills so <u>all</u> may feel comfortable taking at home/work class on internet

Libraries should promote delight

Open mindedness for staff

Utilize central library for more training opportunities

Link best practices to community needs

Give an exam to categorize what areas need to be further educated

Assist in environmental scan techniques to determine community interests & needs

Update communication systems

Create & publish a best practices document

Training uses all methods: 1-1; remote; lge/sm group

Identify grants both for PLS & for individual libraries

Insist on trustee participation at trustee training; if you want funding – you need to participate.

Give prizes for incentive

Stop thinking that just because libraries are "good" people will love us

Push from state for term limits of Bd. Trustees (local libraries)

Identify innovative project @ member libs & encourage sharing with others

Offer standardized clerk, mngr and trustee job descriptions & evaluation forms

Make <u>x</u> amount of board & staff training reflect <u>x</u> amount of services provided

Let everyone know they are not alone in this effort

Use retired directors

Crazy idea suggestion box

Offer tech service purchasing & setting up computer equipment

Use the library like a patron (or somebody else's library)

Regional on-site training

Each training offered at different times

More front line staff training – don't limit to directors

Teach patience

Video conferencing for meetings and trainings

PLS shouldn't all take breaks at the same time

Train staff PLs + libraries

$$ support for involvement in dev. communities, learning

Contact celebrities to help bring on funding

Sharing of services

Technology

Ask: what do we need vs. what is mandated?

Why is this _our_ job?

Limit maximum number of holds

No reply all responses to questions lame

Grants

No longer can we get everything without money energy, advocacy involvement

Common news aggregated for hot topics & training opportunities in library world

Mentoring program for directors – new & experienced

Generous staff development budgets

Figure out how quantify intangibles