

TLN Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:00a

Committee Member Introductions

- a. Karen Knox (Orion Township Class V) – co-chair
- b. Eva Davis (Canton Class VI) – co-chair
- c. Michael Cummings (Flat Rock Class IV)
- d. Devan Green (Pontiac Class VI)
- e. Cindy Mack (Brighton Class V)
- f. Jenn Marr (Ferndale Class IV)
- g. Carrie Ralston (Walled Lake, Class II)
- h. Steve Bowers (TLN Executive Director)

Committee Charge Review

- a. Working in consultation with the TLN Board and Executive Director, the Strategic Planning Committee will:
 - i. Develop a new Mission Statement and Vision Statements for TLN
 - What do we want TLN to be in one year, three years, five years?
 - What does the future TLN look like?

TLN Mission Versions – Reviewed and discussed the following TLN statements:

- Tag: Libraries Working Together
- Mission from Bylaws: “The mission of TLN is to improve, enhance and extend library service to its member libraries.”
- Mission from Plan of Service: “To offer, provide and facilitate quality library and related services, by means of cooperation and collaboration among TLN’s member libraries and other libraries which may receive services from or through TLN.”
- Mission from Job Posting: “Our mission is to provide and facilitate quality services developed through collaboration with our member libraries. We also strive to provide a high return on the libraries’ financial investment in The Library Network.”
- City of Ferndale: The benchmark for a modern community that embraces the richness of diversity and brings inclusive hospitality to life

Mission

Stewards of progress, anticipating needs, engaged with our community, serving with excellence.

Guiding Principles

Inspired, Integrity, Inclusiveness, Innovative

Values

Progressive, Equitable, Sustainable, Resilient

Discussed what “mission” and “vision” mean to the Committee:

- Mission: Who we are, what we strive to accomplish, describes the value of TLN, our reason for being
- Vision: Our desired outcome, how we lead and innovate to move member libraries forward together, what our dream is
- Discussed the need for the TLN mission to be overarching, and committees to adapt and reflect that mission. Importance of Board awareness and Steering Committee representing members at the board level.

Reviewed words/terms/phrases that apply to TLN:

- advancement of all libraries
- facilitate resource sharing and collaboration
- provide leadership/value/support
- provide advocacy/education/engagement
- support system that TLN is for members, we are stronger together, strength in membership/the group
- Advocacy on behalf of membership
- Working for the collective good of member libraries/patrons
- Stewardship
- High return on investment, economies of scale, combined purchasing power
- How do ideas of equity, diversity, and inclusion reflect the work we do for our members? How does, or should, our mission reflect that? TLN ensures equitable public library services to all residents of southeast Michigan
- Mission should reflect demographics of all TLN communities—rural, suburban, urban; varied budget size due to property tax values; varied population size; multiple governance types; socioeconomic disparities; as well as racial and ethnic differences
- TLN initiatives and activities extend beyond membership and in some cases are statewide: MAP, group purchasing/licensing.
- Provide tools to members to help individual libraries advocate and innovate at local level
- Is TLN working for members, or are members working for TLN? This is a sentiment that has come up in conversations Steve has been having.
- Leadership role of TLN as the largest cooperative in the state, model for other cooperatives and libraries
- Tension between state mandates for cooperatives at a basic level, but also fellowship for members
- Customer service vs. regulatory compliance
- Serving immediate needs (triage) vs. anticipating those needs (proactive planning)

TLN Membership survey for Strategic Planning purposes

Committee can come up with survey goals and questions, TLN staff will implement

Plan of Service

Noted by Jenny Marr and confirmed by Steve Bowers that in the Bylaws the Steering Committee should do this every year, but it has not been done consistently.

<https://tln.lib.mi.us/board/files/docs/Bylaws%20-%20TLN%20Board.pdf>

Committee Meeting schedule going forward

Biweekly Fridays at 11am

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Davis

Meeting Chat:

11:23:53 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : <https://tln.lib.mi.us/board/files/docs/Bylaws%20-%20TLN%20Board.pdf>

11:29:49 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : Eva:
Mission = Our reason for being.

Vision = Our desired outcome.

11:35:26 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone :

Mission

DALNET is a community of libraries working together to provide access to information for research, cultural enrichment, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Vision

DALNET libraries are valued as readily accessible and always useful places to go for information.

11:36:11 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : Mission: Who we are. Vision: What our dream is.

11:37:50 From Carrie Ralston to Everyone : Sorry if I'm in and out everyone. I've got one other staff member here and all the shouty patrons are visiting this morning.

11:41:01 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : Provide Leadership, Value, Support

11:43:29 From Michael C to Everyone : I like Carrie am in and out a bit for patrons... apparently our patrons have all decided to come in at 11:30 today.

11:44:30 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : collaboration, together, coordinate, cooperate

11:45:22 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : Advocate, educate, stewards, working for members

11:45:38 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : Provide Leadership, Value, Support

11:47:40 From Steve Bowers - TLN to Everyone : How do ideas of equity, diversity, and inclusion reflect the work we do for our members? How does, or should, our mission reflect that?

11:48:07 From Michael C to Everyone : For the Vision I do favor the idea of reflecting leadership and future goals or promise. The mission I do feel that a mission needs to be consistent throughout the organization. I realize that committees could vary a bit, but I think that the mission of each committee needs to be the same, reflective or embracing of over the overall mission of the organization

11:51:54 From Jenny Marr to Everyone : Just for reference/more sample phrasing, these are the City of Ferndale's mission/vision:

Vision

Ferndale: The benchmark for a modern community that embraces the richness of diversity and brings inclusive hospitality to life

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12:07:59 From Jenny Marr to Everyone : Works for me!