

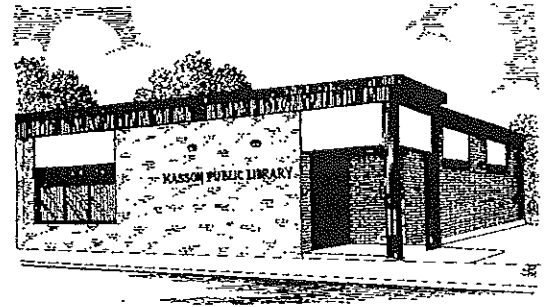
Kasson Public Library

16 NW First Avenue
Kasson, Minnesota 55944

Telephone: 507-634-7615

Fax: 507-634-7630

Website: www.selco.info/kasson



September 19, 2008

Allan Nilson

43686 145th Ave Way

Zumbrota, MN 55992

Dear Allan,

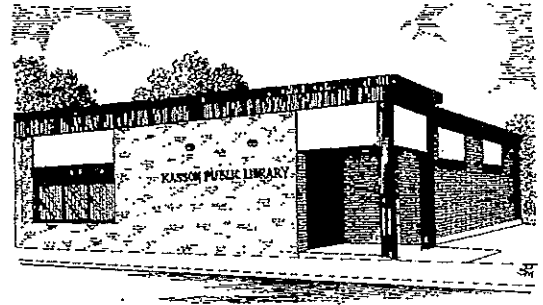
I read your comments to the last Structure meeting which I attended. I appreciate your explanations of the committee's thought processes and certainly do not wish to question your dedication (and that of the committee) nor minimize the incredible amount of work that has gone into this process. However, I do think that you do not realize how very difficult it has been to find information about the Structure process from the SELCO website.

Since I was the person who commented on this at the meeting, I would like to provide a little more information. I started looking for information about this process in the spring of this year. At the time that I first started checking, there was no listing of archives in a sidebar. I am sure there was probably another way to reach them but I never found it. When the archive list did appear this summer, very few of the links worked. I did accidentally stumble on a Structure page that included a merged document showing all of the models that had been considered and the pros and cons of each. But this was not an easy find. When I pointed this out to some of the other directors that shared my interest, I had to list a long path to follow to find it – sort of like leaving bread crumbs in the forest. It was not on the structure blog!

I have run across link problems with the new website frequently in the past year. When I have reported problems with links or access, I am usually asked why I want this information so I have pretty much given up asking. However, after Ann sent out the response to the advisory committee questions in August, I noticed immediately that the links she listed did not work. I therefore sent out a letter to all of the directors with an attachment of the master merged document telling them where to find it. I also called the help desk to report the problem. The next day Donovan sent an email to all explaining that the links had apparently been broken when they brought up the new website in June of 2007. The links were repaired and documents, etc. were moved over to structure blogs. (The merged document that I was talking about finally appeared in the March blog as well. It was not there at first.)

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I think this (along with time constraints) explains quite well why the directors were not finding information about the structure committee. I think it would have been better to have sent a copy of the master document with all of the structures that were considered to all of the directors to look at. It could have been done quite easily through dirpub - certainly taking no more time than posting on the blog.

I am certainly not complaining about the enormous amount of effort that the SELCO staff uses to keep the SELCO website up and running. It can be a wonderful source of information. However, it is very large and very complex which means that it can take a lot of time to find things, something few of us have. Also, its very complexity means that it is not uncommon for there to be missing links. For example, after the links for the Structures blog were fixed and files moved from the SELCO librarian blog to the Structures Blog, the Librarian blog ended up with a large number of archives and topic key words that have broken links.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Adams, Library Director
Kasson Public Library
16 1st Ave NW
Kasson, MN 55944

cc: Kasson Public Library Board Members