



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

5:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

The Vice Chair, Kathy Ivey, called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m.

PRESENT: Araysa Simpson, Kathy Ivey, Aaron Engel, Katie Bittner, Mac Kiel, Rosanne Northwood, Erin Raymus, Jessica Thill, Tamra Dickinson

ABSENT: Sue Anglehart

STAFF: Dawn Wacek, Daniel Whitmore, Cynthia Arauz, Amber Leibundgut-Peterson, Miranda Greeno

Agenda Items:

1 Visit from Assistant City Attorney, Gideon Wertheimer – Service Animal Policy

Assistant City Attorney, Gideon Wertheimer, explained to the Board the edits that he made to the Library's Service Animals Policy. Members of the Board asked Mr. Wertheimer a few clarifying questions. The edited Service Animals Policy will be voted on at the regular Board meeting on October 14.

2 2026 Budget Updates and Discussion

Director Wacek shared with the Board a PowerPoint presentation that provided three different possible scenarios for 2026 based on the budget reduction that will be considered by City Council in November. While reviewing these three scenarios, Ms. Wacek asked the Board to consider the short-term and long-term impact, impact on services and community, impact on staff, as well as alignment with the Library's strategic plan.

Board members presented Library Leadership with their questions, insights, and perspectives.

The Board will continue to discuss the 2026 budget at future meetings with the above considerations in frame. A vote on how the Library will respond to the projected budget cut will take place at the regular Board meeting on October 14 or November 11.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:32 p.m.