



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library - Video Conference

Agenda

1. Call to Order

PRESENT:

Sue Anglehart, Cat Ellingson, Shelley Hay, Kathy Ivey, Gary Padesky

ABSENT:

Katie Bittner, Jodi Ehrenberger, Araysa Simpson, Keonte Turner

Ms. Anglehart noted the Board's appreciation of Ms. Grant's leadership and library staff's hard work in providing quality service and programming during these challenging times.

The Chair, Ms. Anglehart, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020.

(Gary Padesky / Shelley Hay) Carried

3. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 5, 2020.

(Kathy Ivey / Cat Ellingson) Carried

4. Election of Vice-President

Motion to nominate Kathy Ivey for Vice-President.

(Gary Padesky / Cat Ellingson) Carried

5. Approval of Bills & Financial Reports

Due to a major upgrade and changes to City's chart of accounts, September financials were delayed. Approval of September financials will be tabled until the November Board meeting.

6. Reports

6.1 Director's Report

6.11 Vacancy Report

There are no current vacancies. Two part-time employees impacted by the reduction in force officially retired. They will be recognized with the traditional retirement gift from the Board.

6.12 Service Updates

Plans to expand services to include in-person browsing have been delayed due to current community health metrics and the differences between City of La Crosse Library and County Libraries. These include more active cases in the city than surrounding communities, and a much higher concentration of students and unsheltered people - populations experiencing high positive test rates. La Crosse also has a larger volume of people in the building than surrounding libraries. Ms. Grant noted DPI's additional guidance to look to local health department officials when making decisions to choose lower occupancy numbers.

Although some digital fatigue has been noticed with regard to online programming, 98 participants attended the Enduring Families online program in partnership with La Crosse County Historical Society.

Distribution of kits continue to be very successful for all age groups. Instruction is also happening in the St. Andrews Collaborative, where participation continues.

6.13 Voting Update

As in the past, both Main and South facilities are polling places. South is not currently open for in-person library services, and is staged with the same floorplan as prior elections. A higher turnout is expected for the Main location. Main Hall will be utilized, staff has reconfigured the space so voters may enter, vote, and exit without entering library space.

6.14 Budget Update – 2021 Operating Budget

The Board of Estimates (BOE) met for the second review of the 2021 Operating Budget. Ms. Grant summarized the staffing document sent to the BOE and Library Board. She noted that staffing impacts service hours, with the term "service hours" being purposely used rather than "branch hours" or "programming hours". The document does not define how those hours of service will be provided if a staffing increase is received in future budget years. It also stresses that the Library Board will determine prioritization in use of staff time to best serve the needs of the community.

Ms. Grant acknowledged City Council Representative Padesky, thanking him for noting that the library's Archives and Local History room, as well as its two branches, set this library apart from comparable libraries and that these unique services cost money.

The budget summary will be published in the La Crosse Tribune Sunday October 25th. A public hearing and meeting to adopt the budget will take place on November 10th.

6.2 Committee of the Whole Report

6.21 Library Director's Evaluation

Last year's evaluation form will be used for Ms. Grant's upcoming review. The form will then be revised and updated. Board members were asked to complete and email the evaluation form to Kathy Ivey by November 3rd for compilation.

*Motion to approve Director evaluation at the November Board meeting.
(Kathy Ivey / Gary Padesky) Carried*

7. Old Business

None.

8. Public Comment / Other

Gary Padesky noted that Fire Chief Ken Gilliam would like to speak to the Board regarding the design of space at the north side fire station. Ms. Grant will contact Chief Gilliam and add to November's meeting agenda.

9. Topics for Future Meetings

None.

10. Adjournment

Time: 5:38 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.
(Gary Padesky / Cat Ellingson) Carried