



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

5:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library

Auditorium (Lower Level)
800 Main Street

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting Called to order at 5:01 PM

Present: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Araysa Simpson, Jess Thill, Mac Kiel, Katie Bittner, Aaron Engel

Absent: Ross Seymour, Erin Raymus

Staff: Shanneon Grant, Dawn Wacek, Barry McKnight, Cole Zrostlik, Danny Whitmore, Elaine Petersen, Anita Doering

Agenda Items:

1 Review Strategic Planning Timeline

Strategic planning is progressing according to schedule with the first phase, focused on community input, complete. Next, the plan will be vetted by a steering committee, including representation from the Board (Board Chair Sue Anglehart, Jess Thill, and Erin Raymus), as well as Library staff and community members. The Library Board will play a bigger role in fine tuning the plan in September; the plan will be finalized in October. A Board retreat will be necessary after the plan is complete to ensure the plan is actionable.

2 Review Preliminary 2024 Operating Budget Request

With the exception of salary and benefits, the 2024 budget is expected to be maintained at the same level as 2023, taking into consideration a \$10,583 increase in utility costs and the fact that cyber security / IT contracted expenses continue to increase (a 10% cost increase is anticipated in 2024). This will require some cuts in various budget lines.

Ms. Grant and Business Manager Elaine Petersen will be meeting with the City finance department in the coming week. The thought right now is to reduce \$3,500 in the office supplies line and \$3,500 in materials; Ms. Grant and Ms. Petersen plan to ask for an additional \$7,000 from City to compensate for extra expenses.

3 Child Safety Policy

The new policy is more detailed and specifically spells out expectations for caregivers, general public without children, and Library staff. Some arbitrary/vague language was removed from the previous policy. Youth Services staff was able to look over the revised policy and approved the new language. A Board member suggested changing "customers" to "patrons." An additional suggestion was made to include a section identifying "who children turn to if staff is making them feel unsafe," possibly for the future.

4 Local and Independent Authors Collection Policy

The new policy will provide clarity regarding expectations and procedures to local authors, including the removal of materials as deemed necessary for space/circulation reasons. Collection Management and A&E staff have vetted this policy. LPL sees our local author section as a critical vehicle for creators to share their work.

Adjournment at 5:53