



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

PRESENT: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Aaron Engel, Bryan Morris, Ross Seymour, Araysa Simpson

ABSENT: Katie Bittner, Mac Kiel, Jess Thill

STAFF: Barry McKnight, Shanneon Grant, Dawn Wacek, Sarah Ludington, Elaine Petersen, Anita Taylor-Doering, Daniel Whitmore, Russ McClintock, Cynthia Arauz

The Vice Chair, Kathy Ivey, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1 Discussion with Mayor Reynolds: Budget Forecast, City Priorities, & Community Needs

Ms. Ivey introduced Mayor Reynolds who expressed his support of the Library and its goal of providing equitable access and services to the city of La Crosse. He gave a brief status of the climate of the State Legislature in regards to the state's Shared Revenue program. He expressed hopefulness in the fact that the state leadership appears to agree on making a change to the current system, but allowed that it may take some time. He stated that in light of this, as the City approaches its next budget cycle, new approaches to the Library's service model may be considered.

The Mayor answered a few questions regarding the City's budget cycle.

Ms. Ivey thanked the Mayor and expressed appreciation for his support.

2 Computer Use Policy Draft

Ms. Grant introduced a draft of an updated Library Computer Use Policy. She noted the need for a more robust policy in order for the Library to be clear on its stance, especially in light of recent proposed legislation related to computer use in schools and libraries. The draft was based on similar policies at libraries in Eau Claire, Washington County, and Hennepin County. It has been vetted by Daniel Whitmore, the Library's IT Manager. Prompted by a question from the Board, Ms. Wacek will look into how the Library's policies address age requirements in relation to computer use. There was further discussion of Wi-Fi as a library resource that remains available beyond the library's open hours.

3 Fund Balance Policy Draft

Ms. Grant referenced past discussions with the Board in adopting a Fund Balance Policy and that the need for one was further highlighted after speaking with the City Finance Director. The City Finance Director supports having a policy in place and sees the amount proposed in the Policy draft as reasonable for contingency purposes. Regarding precedent for use of Carryover/Fund Balance for retirement payouts, Ms. Grant noted that most retiree payouts are absorbed by keeping vacant positions open, or making other adjustments in annual spending. After substantial mid-year budget cuts in 2020 resulted in a reduction in force and subsequent retirements, Ms. Grant requested the Board approve use of Carryover/Fund Balance to offset retirement payouts in August 2020. Dr. Engel shared examples of the School District's Fund Policy organization and language. He recommended something similar in order to offer transparency of fund categories in the Library's Policy. Discussion followed regarding how to categorize funds.

4 Strategic Planning Options

Ms. Grant gave a brief presentation of the strategic planning facilitators mentioned at last month's Board meeting. She reiterated the need to use one that can work with the Library's preferred timeline. She shared that while amounts are still preliminary, it is likely that there would be enough carryover, or fund balance, to fund strategic planning. Ms. Grant shared background information about the preferred facilitator, Library Strategies. David Katz, Programs & Services Manager with Library Strategies, will give a presentation via Zoom to the Board at next Tuesday's meeting. An example of public-facing strategic plan literature by Library Strategies was provided.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:10 p.m.