



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, May 6, 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 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Katie Bittner, Jessica Thill, Araysa Simpson, Aaron Engel

ABSENT: Erin Raymus, Ross Seymour

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

Agenda Items:

1 Capital Campaign Preparation

1.1 Agreement to Establish Fund with La Crosse Community Foundation

With grant-funded renovations about to begin, the Library is turning its attention to how the second phase of improvements will be financed. Director Grant shared with the Board that she has met twice with leaders from the La Crosse Area Community Foundation (LCACF)—once before the Library was awarded the Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) grant last year, and again with Deputy Director Wacek this past April. A partnership with LCACF could be a strong opportunity for the Library, offering access to the Foundation's local expertise, strong reputation, and community connections. The Board reviewed a draft fund agreement and identified questions for Library leadership to continue discussing with LCACF.

1.2 Naming Opportunities Policy Draft

Director Grant asked the Board to consider Naming Opportunities as a tool to raise funds and encourage community members to donate during the upcoming Capital Campaign. Whether that be the naming of a room, area, collection, space, equipment, artwork, technology or other interior or exterior space. Last week, Deputy Director Wacek attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Annual Conference and shared some of the recent successes other libraries in the region had using this strategy. Board members were encouraged to share suggestions on the draft policy as

staff continues to refine it. Once the Capital Campaign name and Menu of Naming Opportunities are both finalized, the policy will be brought back to the Board for future review.

2 Flexible Facilities Grant Project

2.1 Grant Administration Services

With FFP grant work requiring more time, Ms. Grant noted her awareness that other grant recipients recently hired professional grant administration. With construction and leadership changes on the horizon, hiring dedicated professionals who have the expertise, experience, and systems in place to work with sizable grants would provide a peace of mind and reassurance that proper procedures are being followed. Director Grant will ask the Board to approve Operating Funds for Grant Administration at May's regular meeting.

2.2 Alternate 1st Floor Restroom Project

Investing in the 1st floor restroom project meets Special Trustees Fund intended purpose of enhanced public spaces and capital expenditure. This project would benefit both patrons and staff by improving capacity, accessibility, ADA compliance, and security. Ms. Grant requested the Board consider utilizing Special Trustees Fund for the 1st floor restroom remodel.

2.3 Special Trustees Fund: Overview of Historical Performance

Business Services Supervisor, Amber Leibundgut-Peterson, and Ms. Grant, presented the Board with an overview of Special Trustees Fund performance from 1985-2025. The Board has expended nearly 2x the total amount invested over 40 years, and the current balance is still more than \$1 million. Board members discussed the long-standing practice of maintaining a \$1 million balance as it relates to total bequests totaling just over that amount. The Board expressed their appreciation for this information and stated that it will be highly useful for both future Board members and future donors.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:23 p.m.