

## COW MEETING NOTES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Katie Bittner present via iPad. Sue Anglehart, Jodi Ehrenberger and Cat Ellingson absent and excused.

Shanneon Grant, Cynthia Arauz, Loretta Kilmer, Alan Mask, Russ McClintock, and Elaine Petersen were also present.

- A report was provided for Give-A-Gift 2019. Loretta noted that the balance of \$13,618.71 is current as of February 27. Shanneon explained that the event planning committee has met to de-brief the 2019 event and begin planning for 2020. While GAG is our signature event, we are looking to refresh and refocus, keeping the same date as Downtown Mainstreet events. The committee is hoping to evolve the event and not be so material centric, providing our donors the opportunity to sponsor other library needs, such as programming, furniture, and kits. The event may possibly include a "Taste of" library programs (5-minute samples of current programs). Shanneon, Al, and Dawn met with the La Crosse Education Foundation/School District to explain changes in the 2020 GAG event and offer a different opportunity to partner on a new fundraising collaboration. This event would specifically focus on growing satellite collections in the community as well as continuing support of the classroom libraries. The initial response was positive, but ultimately the school district decided not to participate in the new venture. They will be looking for grant options elsewhere and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to partner with the library on Give-A-Gift over the last two years.
- Shanneon provided handouts and explained that the Project Outcome tool is another way to look at stats, numbers, and programming. This tool provides more impact than just numbers. The report shared was based on 61 surveys from six different adult program offerings. Maria Hertel from Adult Services compiled a document highlighting 2019 programming which will be useful as an overview of what the library offers.
- Shanneon explained the challenges of using a national security company, noting that their staff is trained to monitor buildings and property, not people. She looked into other security firms as well, but they were much the same. The Patron Relations position would make connections with the public and build relationships, creating a safe comfortable space for everyone. Having someone on staff would also provide more flexibility for all locations. This position would be much more than security, and would benefit the library as a whole. The total spent last year on security was \$60,356.41. The current vacant full-time FTE from the Adult Services Manager position (Grade 17) would be re-allocated to a Library Assistant (Grade 11). A vacant part-time Library Assistant position (24 hours per week) would also be used to cover off-hours and vacation for the full-time position, and may be split between two people. If approved, the contract with G4S would end after a 30-day notice. Kathy noted that Sue was also in favor of creating this position, and that it would be well worth it overall. Gary moved to recommend approval of the Library Assistant Patron Relations position, with a second from Jeff. Motion carried.

- Shanneon shared a request made by La Crosse Police Captain Daniel Kloss on behalf of Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) serving in library neighborhoods. NROs would like to have a space to land in the community for an hour or so every morning to check email and write reports. They see this as a way to build relationships within the community by having a positive presence at the library. Shanneon stressed that it is only a conversation at this point and she was bringing the request to the group for discussion. A proposal for police to co-locate in library space had been made from previous police leadership to the former director last year, with the board expressing several concerns at that time. It was noted that while the recent request is quite different than the past proposal, some of same concerns remain: Would uniformed police in the building regularly be a barrier to access for some populations? What would happen if police saw someone with a warrant, would they make an arrest? How would this fit with our strategic plan and mission? Do other libraries have similar arrangements and how do those partnerships work? Per board request, Shanneon will invite Captain Kloss and the NROs to attend a future meeting to provide an overview and answer questions.