



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Monday, November 2, 2020

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library - Video Conference

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Kathy Ivey called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Kathy Ivey, Sue Anglehart, Cat Ellingson, Shelley Hay, Gary Padesky, Araysa Simpson, Katie Bittner (5:13pm)

Absent:

Jodi Ehrenberger, Keonte Tumer

Guest:

Fire Chief Ken Gilliam

Agenda

1. Presentation by Fire Chief Ken Gilliam

Shanneon introduced Ken Gilliam and gave some background on the Board's past consideration of the library sharing space in a future Fire Station as initially discussed on December 10, 2019. At that time, the potential partnership wasn't a good fit for the library's long-term goals. Ken provided an update on the fire house project, noting that it had recently gained momentum. He wanted to discuss this potential opportunity with the library again before planning moved on to the next phase. He mentioned that fire stations in other cities have partnered with community organizations, as well as sharing space with residential apartments. He noted there would be room for an option including future library space that would provide slightly more square footage than the current North Library. Another partnership option would be for shared use of a community room for periodically offering library programming. The community room would also provide public meeting space. Library staff mentioned concern about noise levels of kids and teens, as well as patrons who are skeptical or fearful of people in uniform. The Board voiced concern about the short time frame involved, and about making future financial decisions after enduring a huge budget cut. Shanneon again stressed uncertainty of service hours into next year, and the need to establish priorities. Ken asked to let him know by Wednesday if the library is interested in pursuing a partnership, as they are meeting with the architects this week. It was noted that the Committee of the Whole does not have the power to vote on agenda items, and would be unable to make any decisions tonight. The Board would like more time to discuss, and would be willing to put the potential partnership on next week's Board agenda.

2. Library Director Evaluation Process

Kathy reminded the Board to send completed evaluations to her by Saturday November 7 to compile. She will work with Sue and Jodi on the process.

Adjournment

Kathy Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:33 p.m.