



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

PRESENT:

Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Katie Bittner, Jodi Ehrenberger, Aaron Engel, Shelley Hay, Mac Kiel, Bryan Morris, Araysa Simpson

The Chair, Ms. Anglehart, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021.

(Aaron Engel / Jodi Ehrenberger) Carried

3. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 2, 2021.

(Aaron Engel / Kathy Ivey) Carried

4. Approval of Bills & Financial Reports – October 2021

4.1 *Review of Special Trustees Fund – Trust Point*

Regina Siegel and Yan Arsenault reviewed the status of the fund. The Board would like to review portfolio allocations as a future agenda item. Ms. Ehrenberger suggested the forming of a special committee to explore.

Motion to approve the bills and financial reports for October 2021.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Kathy Ivey) Carried

5. Department Presentation

Dawn Wacek introduced Youth Services staff and provided an overview of the department. She noted that programming has become more fluid, creative and intentional because of COVID. She provided several examples of current programs and outreach efforts. Future goals include utilizing embedded librarians and offering more tours, as well as offering additional story times and after school events.

6. Reports

6.1 Director's Report

6.11 Vacancy Report

Tim Mysliwiec in Maintenance announced his retirement after 18 years of service. He has been responsible for the majority of cleaning at the branches.

6.12 Monthly Programming Highlights

What started as a pick-up craft opportunity to knit or crochet sweaters for young Afghan Refugees caught fire. Contributions have been received from other states, people have been very excited to help and are grateful to the library for coordinating the project.

The library received a \$5,000 grant from Wisconsin Library Services, and is also applying to the Wisconsin Humanities Council to support the Threads of Tradition program which focuses on the Hmong Community and their sewing tradition. The library is also partnering with the Viroqua Public Library to collaborate on cultural programming.

The Holiday Craft sale was held in Main Hall on Saturday the 6th. There were many vendors and lots of participation.

The Waking Up White Regional Read is wrapping up next week. The library's coordination and Barry McKnight's leadership has been a worthwhile investment in community conversations and enrichment around a shared book that supports the library's mission for inclusion and equity.

There are two new promotional endeavors to advertise the library's great programs and services:

- An in-kind video promo done by Fox 25/48 as a thank you to the Archives team for their research and assistance on the Rivertown Production.*
- MTU is doing a bus wrap thank you to essential workers which will include fields outside of healthcare that continue to provide service throughout the pandemic. The library will have a staff member representing the library on the bus wrap.*

6.13 Facility Updates

Main – continued planning for 1st floor shelving and carpet – will discuss further as separate agenda item during tonight's meeting as listed in Committee of the Whole report section.

South – getting bids from several companies for the roof project, labor shortages have had an impact.

6.14 2022 Operating Budget Process Update

There will be a Special Common Council meeting to approve the 2022 Operating Budget on November 15th. The Council is weighing two budget options – one with

continued participation in the Expenditure Restraint Program, the other if the City opted out of this program. The City's utilization of ARPA funding would impact spending to qualify for the ERP program. The preliminary Library budget request was presented to the Library Board at the August COW meeting – no changes were made to non-personnel lines. The adopted budget will be provided for final board approval at the December Board meeting.

6.2 Committee of the Whole Report

6.21 Approval of Social Media Policy

Motion to approve the Social Media policy.

(Kathy Ivey / Jodi Ehrenberger) Carried

6.22 Approval of Carryover Spending for Access Security System

Motion to approve up to \$50,000 of carryover for Access Security System.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Aaron Engel) Carried

6.23 Approval of Continuation of Current Library Open Hours

Motion to approve continuation of current library open hours indefinitely.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Aaron Engel) Carried

6.24 Discussion of Main 1st Floor Remodel

Closure will have an impact on service. The goal will be to lessen the impact as much as possible, plan for modified services, utilize branches, embedded librarians, and outreach.

Facilities Manager Russ McClintock provided an update, outlining the strategy and process involved. His first concern is the safety of staff and public, and doesn't feel it's feasible to be open during construction. Several options were discussed, including how branches can best be utilized. Staff have been brainstorming options as well. Concerns were mentioned regarding the library being a warm space in the winter for those without shelter. Ms. Grant noted that City is working on providing a more permanent space with 24/7 access during winter months for those in need. This topic will be discussed further at future meetings.

7. Old Business

None.

8. Public Comment / Other

None.

9. Topics for Future Meetings

Closed Hours
Flooring Project
Trust Point Allocations
Fundraising Goals

10. Adjournment

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.
(Jodi Ehrenberger / Aaron Engel) Carried