COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

PERSONNEL & BUDGET – Those in attendance: Gary Padesky, Jodi Ehrenberger, Board president Bev Ruston, Loretta Kilmer, Kelly Krieg-Sigman, Lou Kalis, Russ McClintock

- The list of bills was presented. There being nothing out of the ordinary, but lacking a quorum, it was the consensus of those present to recommend approval of the bills to the full Board.
- Kelly reported that Cynthia and Dawn were moving forward in filling the vacancies in their respective departments, and that no new vacancies had occurred.
- Kelly formally requested $13,000 from the carryover fund to replace the clocks at Main library. Extensive discussion ensued. Russ and Lou reported on the problems currently being experienced, and the high cost of repair calls. It was noted that this was a significant amount of money to spend on something not related to direct library service, but the amount was not large enough to allow other projects to move forward, or to address other priorities such as the critical need to replace the fire panel. It was the consensus of those present to recommend approval to the full Board of the use of up to $13,000 from the carryover fund to replace the clock system.
- The balance of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of the 2018 budget and various salary adjustments that Kelly brought forward at the request of three different managers. Kelly emphasized the following points:

    - The proposed budget would keep the city's allocation to LPL the same as 2017, but over $40,000 would be needed from carryover to balance it, thus making it a deficit budget.
    - Contrary to the Mayor's directive, non-salary expenses are not being kept at 2017 levels, but will be offset by the contribution from carryover.
    - The proposed budget does not change the levels of service, including hours of operation.

    Lacking a quorum, it was the consensus of those present to hold off on any recommendation until the salaries recommendations could be discussed by the full Board.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - Those in attendance: Bev Ruston, Katie Bittner, Judy Bouffleur, Araysa Simpson, Suzanne Anglehart, Kelly Krieg-Sigman

The committee began a discussion on two initiatives related to the city's MTU – establishing a bus stop at Main library, and exploring some kind of free or reduced rate for those wishing to come to any library location. After discussion, the following two motions were made:

1. Motion by Judy, seconded by Suzanne, to recommend to the full Board that Kelly be directed to investigate comparable public libraries and cities to find out if they have a bus stop located at the public library. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Judy, seconded by Katie, to recommend to the full Board that Kelly be directed to open a dialogue with the MTU director to explore options for free/reduced fares on the city buses for those wishing to go to any LPL location. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the feasibility of establishing a bookmobile service, noting the article that Kelly had shared which indicated an annual operating cost of @ $200,000. In general, the committee felt that there were other less expensive ways of reaching out and providing library service throughout the community. Motion by Judy, seconded by Katie, to recommend to the full Board that Kelly be directed to work with the library management team to develop a comprehensive report on options for service extension, with said report presented to the Board before the April 2018 meeting cycle. This report will include funding suggestions, including possible sponsorships. Motion carried.

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Although the committee did not take any formal action, they did agree that the budget as presented was a solid one and that if more hours of operation were desired, additional funding would have to be allocated. Further, if hours were to be restored at SCL, they would need to be restored at NCL as well.

A brief discussion was held on the senior center sub-committee meeting that Kelly had attended and reported on. Kelly recommended that the board consider submitting a formal resolution indicating Library Board support for exploring the possibility of a combined senior center/library use building on the current site of SCL.