



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

Present:

*Kathy Ivey, Sue Anglehart, Katie Bittner, Mac Kiel, Bryan Morris, Araysa Simpson,
Jess Thill*

Absent:

Jodi Ehrenberger, Aaron Engel

The Chair, Ms. Ivey, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Agenda

1. Summary of April 23rd Board Retreat

Takeaways:

- *Trustee Training provided by John Thompson helped define roles and responsibilities of the Board and Director.*
- *Discussed levels of advocacy from Library Board, Library system (WRLS) and state library organizations.*
- *Conference attendance and/or training opportunities for Board.*
- *Possible planning for small, purposeful contingency with Carryover funding.*
- *Annual Report feedback - include return on investment, efficiency of services, and highlighting services offered.*

Fundraising:

The library's gift accounts are in fair shape coming out of the pandemic. The Trustee's Fund is healthy through donations received, and the In-House checking income nearly matched the outgoing in 2021. Staff have done some fundraising although the Board would like to see that increase with the help of Friends or other volunteers.

- *Discussed Friends and the support they provide in programming dollars, they are incredibly good at raising money through book sales.*
- *Friends hold the 501c3 nonprofit status utilized by library for grant writing.*
- *Discussed additional ways Friends or other volunteer groups might be able to help with fundraising events in the future.*
- *Possible volunteer help locating and applying for more grants.*
- *Briefly discussed fundraising initiatives library staff have planned.*
- *Moving away from staff intensive, materials-centered annual fundraiser to quarterly events.*

1.1 Review of Workplace / Organizational Culture Goals

Although providing access to library materials remains a core service that we continue working to improve, there has been an overall shift of services in public libraries; moving from the main focus being collections toward more community focused services, moving from research-based service toward a learning culture, moving towards librarians doing more instruction and providing access through technology. The goal is to remove silos across departments in order to increase flexibility, accountability, and transparency.

To help achieve this goal, a Staff Compact has been created and signed by all staff. Manager expectations and leadership responsibilities have been updated and shared. Schedules and calendars are now shared across the organization. Staff are cross-trained to assist with public facing service points, and to assist in providing core services across departments. Specialized services are also provided by staff with training or expertise in specialty areas of library work. In the post-pandemic environment, connection between staff has been encouraged.

2. Recommendation of Future Service Hours at Main

To determine proposed hours at Main, checkout stats, heat maps and occupancy data were reviewed. Saturdays are typically busy in the mornings and slow in the afternoons. However, Sundays have historically been busy all four open hours. It was also noted that 9:00am openings would be better for programming. Saturday afternoon programming would be available in Main Hall, and the library van would continue to provide outreach.

Proposed open hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 7:00pm

Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm – 5:00pm

This would be an increase of six hours totaling 56 hours/week beginning July 5, 2022.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 5:41 p.m.