



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

5:00 PM

Video Conference

1. Call to Order

PRESENT:

Sue Anglehart, Katie Bittner, Jodi Ehrenberger, Cat Ellingson, Shelley Hay, Kathy Ivey, Gary Padesky, Araysa Simpson

ABSENT:

Jeff Bagniefski

Ms. Anglehart noted that the La Crosse Public Library is one of the only libraries of its size in Wisconsin that has opened for computer services. She thanked staff for their efforts, and for doing such a great job reaching out and serving the community.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2020 and Special Meeting minutes from May 20, 2020.
(Kathy Ivey / Gary Padesky) Carried**

3. Approval of Bills & Financial Reports

**Motion to approve the bills and financial reports for May 2020.
(Jodi Ehrenberger / Katie Bittner) Carried**

4. Reports

4.1 Director's Report

4.11 Vacancy Report

Ms. Grant noted one vacancy since the May meeting, a 20-hour janitor position vacated by Frank Conway. As mentioned at the Committee of the Whole meeting, due to the current hiring freeze, this position will remain open.

4.12 COVID-19 Budget Impacts / Service Updates

Budget impacts were the main topic of the Committee of the Whole meeting, these will be addressed specifically later. For now, Ms. Grant highlighted some current service updates:

After just a few weeks into scheduling, in-person computer services are going well.

Since beginning curbside service, 7,306 items have been checked out.

Staff is pulling holds from lists 3-5 times per day, and those lists are averaging between 120-150 items. Both frequency of processing lists, as well as the number of items per list has increased. People are utilizing this service!

Since the first closure, 27 online programs have been provided, as well as classes with 461 attendees – not including views after the program occurs.

The number of unique users connecting to Wi-Fi since March has now topped 2,400.

1,512 Adult Services questions were answered between March and May, as well as 970 Archives questions during the same time period.

The Summer Reading Program begins June 15th and will look a little different this year. The theme is "A Summer Like No Other".

4.2 Committee of the Whole Report

4.21 Consideration of Budget Reduction Scenarios

Ms. Anglehart provided information regarding the budget reduction request, and how it would impact the library now and for the next two budget cycles. She briefly explained the scenarios that were provided for Board review, again noting how difficult the decisions were to make. Through painstaking consideration of the very thorough and carefully thought out scenarios, an option which includes a reduction in line items, reduction in force, 18-day, and 60-day furloughs was chosen. This option allows for an immediate reduction in the 2020 budget as well as through 2022, with the hope to eventually regain some of the lost budget back.

Cat Ellingson, School District representative, stressed that the district plans to continue their partnership with the library, stating that the library's resources and services are a vital part of the community.

The Board thanked Ms. Grant and the management team for their energy and leadership, and for the hard-emotional work that has been done. Araysa noted positive community comments about the library over the weekend.

Several board members expressed their thanks, noting how difficult the decision was, and apologized to the library and staff. They remain committed to making thoughtful decisions moving forward in support of the library. Ms. Grant thanked the Board on behalf of the staff for their passion and dedication to the library.

In order to reduce the Library's 2020 Operating budget as directed by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse:

Motion to approve the following line item reductions totaling \$110,105.47:

Delivery - \$11,500

Automation - \$5,500

Professional Development - \$8,695.97

Other Contracts - \$44,474.03

Office Supplies - \$7,500

Dues - \$2,127

Library Materials - \$27,100

Travel - \$3,208.47

Total: \$110,105.47

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Katie Bittner) Carried

Motion to reduce library workforce by 11 part-time and 4 full-time positions as specified in document shared with Library Board, effective June 12th.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Kathy Ivey) Carried

Motion to furlough 8 full-time employees for 60 working days effective June 12th – September 3rd 2020, with the amendment to specify 60 furlough hours for each of the 8 employees.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Araysa Simpson) Carried

Motion to furlough remaining staff intermittently for 18 working days between June 12th – December 31st 2020.

(Jodi Ehrenberger / Katie Bittner) Carried

5. Old Business

None.

6. Public Comment / Other

Jodi Ehrenberger read a prepared Board statement in response to the budget reduction. This statement will also be shared on social media and library website.

Motion to approve Board statement to be posted on library website and social media.

(Gary Padesky / Araysa Simpson) Carried

7. Topics for Future Meetings

None.

8. Adjournment

Time: 5:46 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn.
(Gary Padesky / Kathy Ivey) Carried**