



## Meeting Minutes

### Library Board

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Tuesday, September 12, 2023

5:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library  
Auditorium (Lower Level)

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#### 1 Call to Order

*The Chair, Ms. Anglehart, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.*

*PRESENT: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Katie Bittner, Araysa Simpson, Jess Thill, Aaron Engel, Mac Kiel, Ross Seymour, Erin Raymus*

*ABSENT: -*

*STAFF: Shanneon Grant, Barry McKnight, Elaine Petersen, Cole Zrostlik, Daniel Whitmore, Cynthia Arauz*

#### 2 Approval of Minutes from Regular Board Meeting – August 8, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of August 8, 2023.

(Kathy Ivey/Araysa Simpson) Carried

#### 3 Approval of Minutes from Committee of the Whole – September 5, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 5, 2023.

(Aaron Engel/Katie Bittner) Carried

#### 4 Approval of Bills & Financial Reports – August 2023

Motion to approve the bills and financial reports from August 2023.

(Ross Seymour/Aaron Engel) Carried

## 5 Reports

### 5.1 Director's Report

#### 5.11 Vacancy / New Hire Updates

Joining as a new part-time clerk in circulation is Luke Thering. He has worked with the library previously as a composer and pianist (Dark La Crosse)

#### 5.12 Operational Updates

Staff continue to optimize staff spaces on the first floor. The Administrative Business department has moved to the basement near Collection Development, and Dawn Wacek (Deputy Director and Public Services Manager) and Cynthia Arauz (Circulation Manager) have moved into the previous business offices. Patron Relations will now be located closer to the entryway, near the Library's Community Resource Specialist. Youth Services staff will move into the office behind the teen area, freeing up more office space in the Youth Services work area.

WRLS libraries are in the process of choosing a new Integrated Library System (ILS) —all libraries in the system will be moving to a product by the same current vendor, Innovative Interfaces, for an alternative to the current online catalog and check-out system.

#### 5.13 Programming Highlights

Youth services shared data from summer program and are happy to report they are back to pre-pandemic program attendance numbers! 81 programs for youth and teens were offered as well as 26 passive activities, LPL had 7,445 people attending and participating in YS programming— and of course even more with adult and Archives offerings. Adult Services is busy welcoming back students to the area. Archives is offering historic walking and bike tours. Storytime for adults is starting again, as are Monday Mornings at Main, adult book clubs, and more!

#### 5.14 2024 City Operating Budget Process Update

Board of Estimates (BOE) met September 7. ARPA funding is ending, and employee health insurance, utilities, contracts, and supply costs all are rising. There is a 3.7 million dollar gap in City revenues and proposed expenditures. The City is looking at ways to plateau spending. Ms. Grant reported that the Library may need to adjust the preliminary budget presented to the Board in August depending on what is decided at the October convening of the BOE.

Ms. Grant reports that the Library is still waiting to hear exact numbers, but the City is looking at an approximate 5% budget decrease in total spending. It was

decided that a letter outlining Library budget history/past cuts to the Library budget will be prepared for presentation to the full Council.

**5.2 Committee of the Whole Report – September 5, 2023**

**5.21 Approval of La Crosse Public Library 3-5 Year Strategic Plan**

Motion to approve the La Crosse Public Library 3-5 Year Strategic Plan.  
(Ross Seymour/Araysa Simpson) Carried

**6 New Business**

**7 Old Business**

**8 Topics for Future Meetings**

**8.1 Strategic Plan Implementation**

**8.2 Library Board Retreat – February 17, 2024**

**9 Public Comment / Other**

*Library Board Member Katie Bittner is working with ORA Trails to collect community input on ways to make trails more accessible to all. There will be listening sessions on Sept 20 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, and on Sept 22 in the Library's Creation Space from 10 a.m.-noon (a no school day). ORA hopes to complete their research/outreach by November.*

**10 Adjournment**

Time: 5:50 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.  
(Araysa Simpson/Erin Raymus) Carried