



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Monday, February 1, 2021

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library - Video Conference

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

Present:

Kathy Ivey, Katie Bittner, Cat Ellingson, Shelley Hay, Gary Padesky, Araysa Simpson

Absent:

Sue Anglehart, Jodi Ehrenberger, Keonte Turner

Agenda

1. Reschedule July and September Committee of the Whole Meetings

Due to holiday closures, two upcoming meetings need to be rescheduled. The Board agreed to move the July meeting to Tuesday July 6, and the September meeting to Tuesday September 7.

2. 2021 Library Board Master Calendar of Work

Shanneon shared the master calendar of work, noting the framework of 2020 due to the pandemic. She pointed out the addition of WRLS/WRLS Web services review as requested by the board. She plans to delay trustee training until later in the year to include recent and new board members joining after the April election. She noted both internal and external priority policy work being done. Moving forward she would like to implement policy review in a cyclical fashion every few years. She would also like to hold off on the in-person board retreat until after vaccines have been administered, hopefully by Fall. Gary noted that Shanneon and a few staff members will be presenting to the Council the 2nd Tuesday in March at 6 pm.

3. Review Grab and Go Browsing Service Plan

Shanneon summarized the draft Grab and Go Browsing service plan. She explained that local health metrics have recently improved and the 50-person capacity recommended for the past several months by the Coulee Collaborative is no longer in place. Based on square footage, more people can safely be in the building. An automated occupancy counter has been installed and will alert staff when capacity is close to being reached. The public will be able to browse all circulating collections. Public Relations and other "roaming" staff will monitor those spaces. Dependent on health metrics, these services will begin Monday February 15. Shanneon will ask for formal approval of the presented plan at next week's board meeting.

4. Capital Improvement Projects 2021-2026

Shanneon provided an overview of the approved requests for 2021 including the South Community Library roof replacement and structural assessment, as well as flooring and shelving on the first level of the Main Library. Due to uncertainty of the timeline for fully restoring service hours to pre-COVID levels at South Community Library, she mentioned the possibility of delaying the request for the 2nd half of the South remodel project by one year to re-assessing in next January's CIP cycle. She then detailed the 2023–2024 Main Hall project, primarily the glass and floor remodel. 2023 CIP: \$75,000 Library; \$250,000 (restricted funds/gifts). 2024 CIP: \$250,000. Benefits to remodeling Main Hall include a much larger space to physically distance, separate entrance/exit, and unlike the auditorium in the basement there is no need to use an elevator to access the space. With the Main Hall space being more utilized more than ever since the pandemic, priorities include carpet (\$16,080.89 quote), and three auto sliding doors (\$36,384 quote). The quote received includes removing the old flooring and putting down carpet. Humid conditions cause the parquet tiles to buckle and pop out, posing a tripping hazard. Russ explained that flooring is a priority for this year due to safety and upkeep. Carpet would also help with the currently challenging acoustics in the space. Shanneon would like to request approval for the quoted amount for the Main Hall flooring project from Special Trustee's Fund at next week's meeting.

Adjournment

Kathy Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:20 p.m.