



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

5:30 PM

La Crosse Public Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

The Vice Chair, Ms. Ivey, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Araysa Simpson, Aaron Engel, Mac Kiel, Ross Seymour, Jess Thill

ABSENT: Erin Raymus, Katie Bittner

STAFF: Shanneon Grant, Barry McKnight, Elaine Petersen, Cole Zrostlik, Daniel Whitmore, Dawn Wacek, Anita Doering

Agenda Items:

1 Review Space Audit Recommendations

1.1 LPL's role as "third space" and community hub continues to grow. With data-driven and evidence-based space audit recommendations, LPL will be able to create more room for patrons to enjoy this people-centric library. While this may mean a reduction in the space allowed for "storing" materials, an increase in public spaces will not mean a reduction in the number of materials or services available to patrons. Since the pandemic, more patrons peruse and order from the online collection and borrow from shared consortium libraries.

2 Priorities for Allocating Fund Balance

2.1 In alignment with the LPL Fund Balance Policy, excluding the identified contingency amount, current fund balance should be allocated ahead of the City's 2025 Operating Budget process.

2.2 For LPL, state-mandated budgetary independence comes with fiscal responsibility. Good stewardship of tax payer funding is critical to our service model.

Currently, the number one priority for Fund Balance is contracting security for the colder months. Director Grant shared feedback from a staff survey, as well as input from Managers and Patron Relations staff who are responsible for handling the majority of behavior incidents. Overall, the benefits of having Talon Security onsite last winter outweighed the cons. Managers mentioned an appreciation for the added visibility and preventative aspect. Decreased drug activity, more support for Library Managers in difficult situations, as well as help monitoring exterior and restroom spaces was also mentioned.

Council Representative Kiel noted that there is a lot of forward movement happening now in regards to current housing issues in the City, but several Board members stated their serious concerns about sustainability related to contracting Security with fund balance rather than through the Operating budget.

2.3 Other priorities for Fund Balance allocation included architectural planning and design, potential purchase of a used truck from another City department, and furnishings. Setting the timeline for implementing Space Audit recommendations is contingent on architectural work. Renderings and estimates will be needed ahead of launching a fundraising campaign.

3 Main Street Sidewalk Repair

3.1 A storm sewer drain pipe was breached during work by TAK Communications which caused a sinkhole and subsequent sidewalk damage on the Main Street side of the Library. Repairs should be completed by the end of the week.

4 Discussion Topics for June Committee of the Whole

4.1 Finance Director Chadwick Hawkins will be present at the COW Meeting June 4 to provide information and answer questions.

5 Library Bereavement Policy Corrections

5.1 An error was noticed on a revised policy that was approved last month which inadvertently shortened the leave time that corresponded with certain family members. Approval of the policy presented with corrections will be sought at the regular monthly meeting.

Adjournment at 6:40 p.m.