

WABASH CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting of Monday, October 8th, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Wabash Carnegie Public Library met in session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 8th, 2018 in the library board room. Notice was posted of this meeting pursuant to Indiana Code Sec. 5-14-1.5-5(a) (b).

Trustees present were Jeff Knee, presiding; Charlie Miller; Susan Baker; Bill Benysh; Mary Jo McClellan, Jim Widner. Liz Hobbs was excused. Also present were Ware Wimberly, Executive Director. Staff was also present including Cody Abbott, Laura Beutler, Bethany DuBois, Polly Howell, Julie Lengel, Rachel Parks, Ellen Ragan, Joe Rayl, Theresa Singleton, Wanda Smith, and Amy Wendt. Sara Peterson, consultant, was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. by Jeff Knee.

DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The meeting began by introductions by everyone and one's role as part of the library team.

Sara Peterson reviewed where the library was in the strategic planning process that it going through. The library has got user feedback, talked to community leaders, looked at data on usage and financial, etc. The goal of this meeting is to "Set our Book-ends" on the strategic plan as phrased by Sara. In setting the goal, the following directives are to meet in the meeting:

Self-assessment of the library and key issues facing; envisioning the future of the library say in 2028; and starting goals for reaching that future.

After reviewing the progress up to this point, Sara reviewed the current financial and usage statistics and how that has changed over the past six years. Since 2012, the library has seen substantial decreasing numbers in regards to traditional circulation but increases in programming attendance and overall attendance to the library. With Sara, Trustees and staff discussed these trends in borrowing and usage and what it meant in regards to the library's mission as the moved forward. What do those statistics mean in regards to the library's relevance to the community and in what ways do we want to change that from a library mission perspective?

Sara also focused on the library's finances and the various financial holdings and resources it has. Due to years of very good financial stewardship, the library is very healthy financially and has substianal amount in the future to sustaining operating expenses. Due to its financial health, the library has options for growth.

After discussing the usage statistics and financial picture, participants talked about what we as a library team are really good or excellent at and what we see needs to be improved. Strengths mentioned included friendly customer services, very good collection for patrons both in print and digital, very good Internet/Wi-Fi availability for patrons, good financial health, etc. The overall feeling that the library had a lot of positives going for it and needs to build on those. Participants also discussed things for improvement including communication in various ways, flexibility with building, “telling our story” to our community. It was a good discussion of what we do well but what can be improved.

For the remainder of the meeting, the focus was on how participants saw the library in 5 to 10 years. Part of the challenge of looking that far ahead is that community needs and technology will change so quickly. It will be a continuing challenge adapting to unseen future changes. Still, some of ideas per vision for the library were greater space flexibility, vision as the library as the most important stop to the community, existence of advocate group such as a Friends Group, to be a place for all in our community, etc.

As the facilitator, Sara Peterson keep notes on charts on what was said and agree upon in more detail which can be referred to if needed.

The meeting wrapped up a bit after 8:00 with final comments. Sara and Ware will meet next to discuss how to but the goals in a more specific and detailed manner or process.

ADJOURNMENT

Action: it was moved by Susan L. Baker and second by Charles Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ware W. Wimberly III, Executive Director