

## **WABASH CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees of the Wabash Carnegie Public Library met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 in the library board room. Notice was posted of this meeting pursuant to Indiana Code Sec. 5-14-1.5-5(a) (b).

Members present were Board members: Jeff Knee, Bill Benysh, Susan L. Baker, Mary Jo McClelland, and Charles Miller. Liz Hobbs was absent. Also present were Sarah Peterson, Consultant, Ware Wimberly, Executive Director, and Joe Rayl, Information Services Manager.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Jeff Knee opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### Sara Peterson on Strategic Planning & Community Responses

Sara presented on the recent library survey of users conducted over the past couple of weeks.

108 responses gathered from the survey.

Survey was available in a variety of ways: social media, newsletter, website, at circulation counter.

Sara went over what questions were asked in survey: likes, dislikes, age, how often using library.

Went over what encourages (free books, digital offerings, programs) or holds back (out-of-town, lack of time) patrons to use the library.

Went over what patrons responded as being valuable: borrowing materials most valuable, meeting place least valuable. The difference between meeting place and quiet space clarified.

It was noted that traditional use of library (borrowing materials) was most important to patrons.

Went over patron's experiences with services and spaces provided by the library.

Patron's comments were discussed concerning their experience in the library.

Patrons commented additional equipment needed at the library, wish for fines/fees relief, study space, info on makerspace, home-repair info.

Went over patron's final comments.

It was noted the library is no longer the quiet space it once was due to cultural changes.

It was expected more would be said about programming in the surveys, as opposed to space and materials.

Sara discussed interviews with prominent figures in the community: schools need for partnership with public libraries, how to provide library services to all students, importance of marketing, partnership with local history museum, school readiness/literacy, competition of providing senior programming in community, lack of understanding the transition that libraries are going through.

It was noted some members of community don't understand what library is, how it's governed, its mission.

It was noted our community is special in that our residents with money give back to Wabash.

Sara discussed current trends in libraries: the modern library is an info-hub, makerspace, coffee shop. The importance of having physical books is up for debate. Digital offerings and technology is more important than ever. Amazon bookstores are not a replacement for public libraries. The public library is a user-centered hub of civic engagement.

Trustees discussed what our library is here for: haven't thought about the library as **a civic space** before – that serves entire community, not just those who walk through library's doors. The library is here to serve more than just those community members with library cards, Wi-Fi users, public computer users, programming. The library is more than physical building at 188 W. Hill St., expanding out into the community – booths, roundtables.

It was noted that although other places in community offer meeting spaces, the library is unique in that it offers informative programming along with that.

Sara discussed importance of digital access/inclusion which public libraries offer: free Wi-Fi, applying for jobs online, accessing health, insurance, government information. Also, creation and use of digital media.

Sara discussed importance of family engagement within libraries: provided early leaning, family education.

Sara discussed importance of young patrons, rural communities, and pop-up libraries, makerspaces, life-long learning, and why the library is the most important place in town.

It was noted that the library should focus on areas that are lacking in the community.

It was noted the library doesn't need to be an art center, but should focus on technology instruction for older patrons.

It was noted that there is a major need to create a space for teens within the library.

It was noted the library should partner with community spaces with built in audiences: senior center, Eagles Theater, historical museum, schools, the access, etc.

Discussed the library's mission: get a broader base of the community engaged, base is the citizenry to educate, enhance the quality of our community's lives, and offer new

opportunities/experiences, the ability to allow a person to pursue their own path of learning, foster curiosity.

Next strategic planning meeting will focus on self-assessment of our library – Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** It was moved by Susan L. Baker and seconded by Charles Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:15p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Rayl, Information Services Manager

&

Ware W. Wimberly III, Director