

WABASH CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Wabash Carnegie Public Library met in a special session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24th, 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 Jeff Knee, Josh Petruniw, Charles Miller, and Mary Jo McClelland. Susan L. Baker, Bill Benysh, and Liz Hobbs were excused. Also present were Ware Wimberly, Executive Director, and Joe Rayl, Information Services Manager, and Sara Peterson of Sara Peterson Consulting.

CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Knee opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION – Sara Peterson (Sara Peterson Consulting)

Sara Peterson opened her presentation discussing the outline of discussion. She is from Bloomington, IN and been consulting since 1998. She has worked with organizations that have an arts, culture, and government focus with lots of planning and Board development.

Board introductions.

Discussion on what's important to library: The library wants to remain relevant to the community; Understand the importance of the digitized future with programming and educational needs while trying to maintain many traditional roles; Importance of partnering with other community agencies; Wants to remain relevant and useful to a potential consolidated school district.

Big shift concerns – to gain FOCUS with new Board.

Back off renovations last time due to structural issues, bad bond time, community support.

Strategic planning needed to be done before structural changes.

Sara pointed out variables of planning process: what are the deliverables, outside input, how much time & effort put into it.

The Board concurred importance of outside input from community stakeholders and all levels of local constituents along with staff input.

Timeline – no real deadline “surest way to be late is to have plenty of time.”

Structure of planning meetings: longer times more beneficial according to Sara Peterson; Value in breaking it into larger chunks; less time needed to refresh what was discussed before.

Trustees expressed concern over finding larger amounts of extra time.

3 Meetings for Planning:

1 - SWOT analysis – Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats – could be beneficial in early stages of planning. Broad ideas.

2 - Visions & goals.

3 - Refining goals.

Broad high-level strategic planning vs detailed focused planning.

Important to Board – quality over meeting a deadline.

Sara assured Board she is very straight forward and no games during planning (No crazy process).

Sara will come back with proposal: Prep period; Questions for Ware; Telephone conversations with each of the board members, stakeholders; Research into what other libraries are doing/have done; Final document; Potential public presentation; Summer end-date.

Put a plan into place to figure out feasibility.

Questions from Board? Sara has no experience with other libraries, but has worked with cities, theaters, and other institutions tied to community engagement. She would love the challenge of a library.

Sara pointed out 3 – 5 year plans are the most realistic. 7, 10 years plans are for vision, creativity.

Sara will get a proposal to Ware by the end of April/first of May.

ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Josh Petruniw and seconded by Charles Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Rayl, Information Services Manager

&

Ware W. Wimberly III, Director