

**Library Commission
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

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1 The meeting of the Library Commission of the City of Onalaska was called to order at 6:35 p.m.
2 on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted
3 at City Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Jim Olson, Clay Pollert, Bob
6 Wehrenberg, Sandy Whiteman

7
8 Also Present: Onalaska Public Library Branch Manager Laura Black-Law, Friends of the
9 Library President Larry Pohja, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick

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11 Absent: Jennifer Kaczorowski, Ron Espe

12
13 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

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15 Motion by Clay, second by Sandy, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as printed
16 and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

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18 On voice vote, motion carried.

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20 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per individual)**

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22 Ald. Olson called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion
23 of the meeting.

24
25 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

26
27 **Item 4 – Election of:**

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29 a. Vice-Chair

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31 Motion by Clay, second by Bob, to nominate and elect Sandy Whiteman as Vice-Chair of the
32 Library Commission.

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34 On voice vote, motion carried.

35
36 b. Secretary

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38 Motion by Clay, second by Sandy, to nominate and elect Jennifer Kaczorowski as Secretary of
39 the Library Commission.

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41 On voice vote, motion carried.

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Not Reviewed 6/8/15

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43 **Item 5 – Report from Library – Chris McArdle Rojo/representative**

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45 A. Library Use Report

46 B. Library Programming

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48 Laura shared the following statistics from January through May:

49

- 50 • 86,875 items were circulated
- 51 • There were 7,904 internet visits
- 52 • There were 2,322 reference questions
- 53 • 50,260 patrons visited the library

54

55 Laura noted the fifth annual Leave a Legacy Event will be held from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on
56 Sunday, September 13 at the Onalaska Public Library. An application for a picnic license to
57 serve wine at the event will be submitted.

58

59 Clay asked if the conference room was rented during the period from January to May.

60

61 Laura said that while she does not have that information with her she will provide it to
62 commission members on Wednesday. Laura noted that she sends the library statistics both to
63 Mayor Joe Chilsen and to Chris every month.

64

65 **Item 6 – Friends of the Library Report – Larry Pohja/representative**

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67 A. Book Sale

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69 Larry reported that a book sale will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5, and from
70 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.

71

72 B. Flower Arrangement update

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74 Larry said the Friends of the Library have been attempting to have as much adult programming
75 as possible at the library and noted three flower arrangements have been held so far. Larry said
76 the Friends of the Library have subsidized the flower arrangements so there are lower expenses
77 for patrons, who typically pay \$10. Larry said the Friends attempt to limit attendance to 20
78 individuals, who leave the event with an arrangement. Floral Visions, a City of Onalaska
79 company, participates in the event.

80

81 C. Visiting Authors

82

83 Larry said it is possible Wisconsin author Michael Perry, who is currently touring the state,
84 might be able to come to the library for a presentation in 2016.

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85

86 Larry also noted that the movies shown at the library and sponsored by the Friends have been
87 averaging 50 individuals a night. Larry noted the movies being shown at the library are the only
88 ones being shown “on this side of town.” Larry said that thanks to the generosity of the Friends,
89 the sound system hopefully will be updated by this fall. The fall session of movies likely will
90 start in September and run through December.

91

92 Ald. Olson asked Larry where the Friends obtain the movies they show.

93

94 Larry said La Crosse County purchases them and once they are shown they are placed into
95 circulation. Larry noted the county has utilized funds collected from Friday “Jeans Days” to
96 purchase the movies and said the Friends have been obtaining first-run movies. Larry also noted
97 that individuals from the City of La Crosse, Village of Holmen and Village of West Salem have
98 been attending the movies. Larry said patrons have made donations to the Friends because they
99 appreciate the movies and noted that the movie events are one of the largest adult programming
100 events currently happening. Larry expressed hope that the Friends will be able to update the
101 projector in 2016.

102

103 Ald. Olson noted former Land Use and Development Director Jason Gilman told him movies
104 were once shown in the park.

105

106 Larry noted that movies are shown in the park in the summer in the Village of Holmen, but said
107 he is not concerned about the competition. Larry said the movies promote the library, the
108 Friends and the library’s meeting rooms.

109

110 Sandy said she is aware of a couple (a woman who suffered a stroke and her husband) who plan
111 their evening around the Friends’ movie nights. Sandy also noted that she had spoken to a
112 woman who expressed her appreciation for the movie nights.

113

114 Larry noted that while the movie nights are drawing regular patrons, new patrons also are
115 coming. Larry also noted that the La Crosse Public Library has followed the Friends’ lead and
116 no longer charges for popcorn at its movies. Larry said no R-rated movies were shown during
117 the fall 2014 session, but now “low-key” R-rated films are being shown and attendance has not
118 suffered.

119

120 **Item 7 – Future meetings date and time**

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122 Clay asked if the Library Commission will meet regularly on Tuesdays.

123

124 Ald. Olson said Sandy will have to run the meetings if they are held on Mondays because he is
125 out of town every second Monday. Ald. Olson noted he is in the city on Tuesdays and said it
126 does not matter to him if the commission meets at 6:30 or 7 p.m.

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127
128 Clay expressed his wish to meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.
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130 Dan asked if the Library Commission plans to meet monthly.
131
132 Clay said Ald. Olson will decide when the commission will meet.
133
134 Sandy said it is her understanding the Library Commission must meet at least four times a year.
135
136 Clay asked about the procedure for placing an item on the agenda.
137
138 Ald. Olson said commission members should speak to Deputy City Clerk Elizabeth Eklund about
139 placing items on the agenda.
140
141 Motion by Clay, second by Bob, to approve scheduling the Library Commission's meetings at 7
142 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.
143
144 On voice vote, motion carried.
145
146 Sandy asked if a monthly usage report can be given to the Common Council.
147
148 Laura said she sends Mayor Chilsen the meeting room statistics as well as the number of
149 individuals who come into the library. Laura said she will add the members of the Library
150 Commission to the email she sends Mayor Chilsen.
151
152 Ald. Olson noted that Mayor Chilsen reports the statistics at Council meetings.
153
154 **Adjournment**
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156 Motion by Sandy, second by Bob, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.
157
158 On voice vote, motion carried.
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161 Recorded by:
162
163 Kirk Bey