

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langely, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson, Mayor Hallback

Absent: None.

Staff: Fritsinger, Barclay, Klassen, Lukkarila

Other: Larry Anderson, Cassy Brissett, Cathy Rikkola, Alice Holm, Rex Laaksonen, Jamie Lund, Pine Journal

Joint Meeting with Library Board

City Administrator Fritsinger provided a brief summary of the efforts of the City Council and Library Board to meet annually to discuss issues of mutual interest. Introductions were made. Mr. Fritsinger noted the primary focus of this discussion is the library building project and how to move forward.

- Mr. Anderson gave an overview of the events that took place at the library over the course of the year. The Children's and Adult programs are very popular, as well as a joint program with the Alternative Education Program that was very successful.
- Anne Lundquist, the new Children's Librarian started in April.
- The library received a grant from the Blandin Foundation to be used for additional tech equipment.
- Review of the Annual report which provided information on the increased quantity of use and events. Use of the library grows each year by not only Cloquet residents, but many throughout the Arrowhead Library System.
- The newsletter mailing list has over 1,000 names on it. Donations generate enough to cover the cost of printing and mailing.
- Discussion of the number of complaints of noise level with more activities being offered. There are times when there are as many as 30 kids in the library which makes it difficult to monitor. The new building plan has more space for the children's programs, better space for the teen center, and a quiet space for adults.
- There is some program partnering with FDL, mostly through technology, networking and sharing ideas. Ms. Lukkarila is currently working with them on the Blandin Grant as well as some cultural programs.
- Ms. Lukkarila reviewed the strategic plan and how it ties into the library expansion. The idea is to have an open plan making it easier to change as needs change throughout the years. Want to remain family friendly which can be a challenge with the number of kids coming in.
- Discussion of electronic and paper books available. Ms. Lukkarila isn't anticipating much growth for paper book space.
- The next grant opportunity is \$1 million for building projects through legislative bonding, which is based on needs and how you can work those needs into the goals of the state.
- Mr. Fritsinger commented how the facilities study ranked the library as the lowest need. Of all projects, this is the only one with the ability to draw in funding sources other than property taxes.
- An architect sketch is required when applying for grants or capital campaign. The next step depends on what the Council's thoughts are.
- Discussion on current building funds. Most is done by the Foundation, fund raising and grants.
- Estimate for the library expansion is \$2.6 million.
- The Council will review this project in relationship to the other community facility projects that need to be prioritized.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator