

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 5:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Rock, Wilkinson, and Mayor Hallback.
Absent: Maki.
Staff: Fritsinger, Klassen and Lukkarila.
Other: Larry Anderson, Cathy Rikkola, Barb Ross, Marla Ahlgren, David Johansen, Alice Holm,
Dani Lundeen - Pine Journal.

HRA BOARD VACANCY

The City Council conducted a brief interview with Karen Tribby regarding the current vacancy on the HRA Board. The Council discussed a variety of issues related to housing and the HRA Board.

JOINT MEETING WITH LIBRARY BOARD AND LIBRARY FOUNDATION

City Administrator Fritsinger provided a quick summary of the efforts of the Council and Board to attempt to meet annually to discuss issues of mutual interest. Introductions of everyone in attendance took place.

Ms. Lukkarila began by providing a brief description of the differences between the Library Board and Library Foundation. The Foundation was created to raise monies for a new building and other capital needs of the Library. The Foundation has seven members, four of which are Council appointed and three of which are members of the Library Board. The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization which helps raise other monies through book sales and other efforts for smaller activities and more immediate needs. Foundation monies are not used for operations but are used for bricks and mortar types of things such as computers. It typically contributes \$10-12,000 per year to the library and currently has about \$270,000 in savings. Ms. Lukkarila reminded the Council that there is still one opening on the Library Foundation.

Ms. Lukkarila then provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the library and some of its efforts of the past year. The focus of discussion was on the library's efforts to update its strategic plan and its various goals and strategies to implement the plan. Discussion on the facilities needs study and the library plan took place. The Board is looking forward with the goal of expanding the library to accommodate the needs of the community. The Board is considering a proposal from a consultant to assist with fundraising efforts for a facility and Minnesota Power has provided a \$5,000 grant to help with the planning efforts. The Council indicated that it had not yet seen the results of the facilities study and the Library Board and City Council will need to work together to prioritize any facility improvements in order to avoid community confusion.

Ms. Lukkarila then identified the budgetary challenges still facing the library and how the library fits into Carlton County and the Arrowhead Library System. It was suggested that the Library Board consider targeting requests to Carlton County for more one-time capital type of improvements rather than operational. She then discussed the need for additional staff if the library were to be expanded. More discussion about libraries and issues in Cloquet were discussed.

The group concluded thanking each other for attendance and a reminder that efforts to meet further on the facilities issue will be important.

FUTURE AGENDAS

There was no discussion on future agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator