

## **Holdrege Area Public Library**

### **Library Planning Committee Meeting January 13, 2026**

The meeting of the Holdrege Area Public Library Planning Committee was called to order at 4:01 in the conference room in compliance with the Nebraska Public/Open Meetings Act, posted on the north wall of the room. Committee members Cassie Ehrenberg, Julie Johnson, Lori Larson, Annette Sindt, Cindy Woollen, Rosanna Meyer, and Sue Christensen were present, as was Library Director Sierra Burrows. Members Maureen Epping, Bill Yochum, and Anna Sertich did not attend. Matt Kreutzer and Jim Brisnehan from CMBA and Wendy Townley and Scott Larson from Strawhecker Nonprofit Services participated in the meeting via Zoom.

**Public Forum:** There were no members of the public present.

**Business:** Director Burrows is preparing a 15 minute presentation for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Rotary meeting. Following discussion she was advised to concentrate on what the library is doing, provide a one sheet stat document, and explain what a 21<sup>st</sup> century library looks like. She was advised to request a return date for another program when specific discussion of the library building project could be presented.

Director Burrows, Lori Larson, and Cassie Ehrenberg shared information from their morning meeting with city officials, including the mayor, city administrator, and the PCDC director. The upward limit for a bond could be stretched to 8 million, pending city council approval. The desired amount needed, after fundraising and grants received, will need to be determined and submitted to the council by July or August in time for the bond language to be presented and approved by the Council by September 1<sup>st</sup> if it is to be included in the November general election.

The library's annual report will be presented to the City Council on February 17th and to the County Board also in February. Before then the board will schedule mini-meetings with 2 or 3 city/council board members and 2 or 3 library board members. The library board members need to take a greater leadership role in presentations to the council and county board members. A power point presentation, complete with text, will be prepared so all members are presenting the same information. Later, a formal presentation to each of the full boards at their public board meeting will be scheduled.

A steering committee should be formed. Strawhecker will take the lead in guiding the library board in this matter, reviewing possible steering committee members and making recommendations about which individuals would be best selections for committee membership.

Strawhecker "next steps" include getting information and a template to use for selecting steering committee members and advising steps to contact potential members. Scott and Wendy will meet with Ryan Strawhecker to get a clear understanding of the terms of service that Ryan relayed to the library board when the proposal for Phase 2 was presented to the library board and accepted by affirmative vote.

Next step for CMBA will be to prepare alternate Phase proposals so the project can be reduced in scope and size if the necessary funds cannot be raised.

Next step for the library board will be to develop materials for the Education Phase, set up and conduct mini-meetings between library board members and city council and county board members.

The Library Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 in the library meeting room.

Following a motion by Annette Sindt, seconded by Julie Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Christensen, secretary