

SPECIAL JOINT COUNCIL/LIBRARY BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2019

The meeting was opened by announcing this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, The New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office and on the City's website at www.newrichmondwi.gov. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Council Members Present: Mayor Horne, Aldermen Kittel, Ard, Jackson, Montello, Volkert and Zajkowski

Library Board Members Present: Gordon Granroth, Vicki Gjovik, Jarell Kuney, Patty Van Nevel; and Marla Hall and Jeff Peplau attending by phone

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Kittel moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Joint Library Board/Council Discussion

Alderman Montello introduced Summer Seidenkranz, Chairperson of the Forward New Richmond committee. Summer explained that she worked for the Washington County Library through high school and through her university years, so she loves libraries and what they can do for a community. Summer discussed how she worked with the Forward New Richmond group to help them come together almost a year ago. The goal of Forward New Richmond is to keep the group visionary for the future of New Richmond. Summer shared six goals she has for a successful committee: 1) One-on-one interaction – she met with each of the members of Forward New Richmond to listen to each member's goals and ideas; 2) The group leads the vision – they bring ideas forward rather than waiting for others to provide them for the group; 3) Encourage two-way feedback at each meeting. Summer works hard to make sure every member is a part of the discussion; 4) Show appreciation – thank people for their work; 5) Provide group building opportunities; 6) No surprises – make sure everyone receives all the same information at the same time. Good communication can result in success.

Gordon Granroth stated there have been many starts and stops in the process of expanding the library over the past 20 years. There are now two sites that we need to look at moving forward with the project.

Mayor Horne explained the two possible locations include the current site and the old middle school site. Both sites have positives and negatives. He suggested bringing both options to the community to see what they will support.

There was considerable discussion regarding the next steps for the library project. It was the consensus of the Library Board and City Council that there are two sites to be considered.

Noah Wiedenfeld presented a Request for Qualifications with a deadline of March 22, 2019, for the RFQ to be turned in. Interested parties would submit background information, references, design approach for community engagement, challenges and opportunities. Alderman Zajkowski moved to direct staff to move forward with the RFQ process, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried unanimously by all Council and Library Board members. The RFQ would be sent out to firms in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Interviews would be late March or early April.

At the next work session, the Library Board will answer the question of what services/accommodations will our new library house?

Communications and Miscellaneous

None

Alderman Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Jackson, and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk