

DAVENPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES/CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORKSESSION ON JUN 11, 2019

Mayor Frank Klipsch called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 in the Community Room of the Davenport Police Department.

Library Trustees present: Matt Casillas (3:55), Steve Imming, Judie Lance, Amanda Motto, Naghme Motto, Sylvia Roba and Malavika Shrikhande. City Council present: Ray Ambrose, Rich Clewell, Maria Dickmann, Kyle Gripp, Mayor Frank Klipsch, Mike Matson, Marion Meginnis and Kerri Tomkins. City Staff: Sarah Ott, Tom Warner, Brandon Wright. Library Staff: Director Amy Groskopf and Recorder Kasey Shipley.

Klipsch welcomed the group and introductions were made around the table. Imming reported that the library just received its notice of reaccreditation from the State Library valid through June 30, 2022.

Groskopf shared information on the Library's strategic plan and how those goals relate to the creation of the Outreach Department at the library formed in 2019. There is a library van on order, the Outreach Wheeled Library (OWL) that is expected to arrive late in 2019. This will enable more services provided to those citizens that can't reach the library buildings. Overdue fines on juvenile materials were lifted in April to remove a barrier to children reading. Some partners the library is working with include River Music Experience for QC Beats which is a local music-streaming site and QC Open Network on an alternative 211 service. Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) is providing funding to the library which enables the Main Library to be open four evenings per week until 8 p.m. Matson encouraged the promotion of this since it is permanent; other school students may be able to take advantage of the evening hours. Davenport Reads is a partnership with the Davenport Community School District (DCSD), EICC and the library. It does not include private schools but the Outreach department has done some visits to private schools this year. Ascentra Credit Union began the Cool Reader program with the library at three schools this year with their second grade students. Completion rewards of the program included a pizza party invitation and a stuffed penguin. Clewell asked if incentives worked to improve reading skills and comprehension. Groskopf noted the data from the DCSD for students that participated in the Summer Reading Program showed better scores in the fall. Klipsch noted that the YMCA summer camps provide a time in the day for reading. The library continues to raise funds for the Main Library's renovation project. Current amount pledged is nearly \$550,000. Volunteer participation has increased allowing staff to do more as volunteers can assist in other tasks. An author visit by Jason Reynolds on May 2 brought 450 people to the Main Library, the same day the record river level was set. The library now has a brochure in Spanish, AcornTV streaming service, and a digital library card to provide electronic resources to Davenport residents. The Fairmount Library is seeing an increase of service to 8- to 12-year olds using the computers. When staffing allows, the computer lab has been opened for them to contain some of the noise that comes with 10-20 of the kids in at once. The lab will also house some maker resources like Legos, Ozobots and non-electronic items. River Bend Foodbank will be at Fairmount later in June as a distribution site. There will be a block party at Fairmount in August. Last year they gave away bike locks and this year will have a bike helmet giveaway along with some school supplies. There is also a Food Forest in the back of the Fairmount Library. Not bearing fruit yet!

Imming reported the board has been working on a job description for Library Trustees. It will not only a good reminder of duties to the Trustees, but can be used by the Mayor as openings come around for appointments and can be shared with applicants through that office. Next on the list is to update the

by-laws to include a succession process in officer assignments. Advocacy is an ad hoc committee recently created but will likely be added to the by-laws as a standing committee. Advocacy at both a local and state level is possible. Imming reported the Trustees have 100% participation in pledging to the capital campaign for Main Library renovations. Some events the Trustees have participated in this past year include volunteering at River Bend Foodbank to pack bags for their weekend meal program for students, Summer Reading Program kickoff, Fairmount Block Party and Main's 50<sup>th</sup> building party. Some challenges include serving the "tweens" at Fairmount better and adding a part-time library assistant to help coordinate and staff the computer lab with additional activities for this age group would be very useful. They could also provide support in resolving behavior issues. Due to current staffing, opening the lab cannot always happen. Dickmann suggested asking if the Y Achievers group could refer someone that had been through their program to hire. Another item that is a challenge is having the branches open until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It is estimated it would take another part-time librarian and 2 part-time senior clerks to expand those hours. The estimated cost of all four of these part-time positions is \$100,000 per year.

Discussion ensued with council and trustees on a variety of topics that included recruitment of volunteers in education training, lack of qualified AmeriCorps applicants for current openings at the library, loitering and smoking outside of the Main Library, book clubs and the libraries, if non-library services are provided to the public like laundry service or hygiene products. Mayor and council asked the Trustees for input on their biggest challenges as a Trustee or what they view is the biggest challenge for the library. Budget is always a barrier in doing more, like expanding hours. A makerspace to provide use to citizens of unaffordable technology to the average household would be nice. Funding for more hotspots for wifi to check out as well as children's tablets with pre-loaded educational software is desired.

Mayor and council commended the Trustees and library staff for the work they are doing to serve the community and are glad to get the chance to hear from the board on what is needed to best serve the citizens.

With no further business, Klipsch adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kasey Shipley, recorder