

**Highwood Public Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting
January 14, 2020**

Present-Trustees Bertha Chavez, Barbara Cizek, Janell Cleland, Lucy Hospodarsky, Diana Joren, Laurie Lenzini, Patricia Lenzini, Nora Loreda, Catherine Regalado; Director Carmen Patlan
Ms. Hospodarsky called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm.

Public Comments – None

Discussion: library renovation and City of Highwood Committee of the Whole meeting

Most Board members were present at 1/7/20 City Council COW meeting when library decision on shared building was discussed. The president feels Library Board and City Council should meet together. She has spoken to the Mayor about scheduling this. The Library Board is still aligned behind the unanimous vote to keep library space for library. However, the Board understands the City is disappointed in having to find another possible site if current City Hall property is sold. Timing is likely far out as many other items have to fall into place, including Springfield TIF approval, accepted developer offer, and approved developer proposal.

There may be ways to collaborate in the future. The City may use the library's existing meeting room for council meetings, or the administrative function could add to front, back, and/or side of building, not impacting library space that has been renovated with donor funding. The library site would be unable to house the police department.

The Director felt some aldermen discounted her experience and track record in fund raising and programming, and she stressed how her previous projects have been sustainable even after she has moved on. The Library has been collaborative with the City, sharing preliminary pro bono plans. The Director is concerned about losing fundraising momentum. Current plan cosmetic repairs and new systems in current footprint = \$750,000. Including façade repairs = ~\$1,000,000.

One alderman has visited the Director twice in 2 days, threatening to shut library down, claiming to speak for all of city council, and alarming staff witnesses. The President is confident that this alderman is misrepresenting the other aldermen and the Mayor, with whom she had spoken today, and who did not share this.

Discussion of Next Steps

- President will contact alderman who was threatening the tax levy, ask that he speak to her directly in the future as the more appropriate line of communication, and will also notify Mayor of the two visits. Director will refer this alderman to Board President if he tries to contact her again on the topic.
- Board would like Director, President, and Ms. Cleland to represent library in discussions. Board would like Mayor, City Manager, and an open-minded alderman to represent city.
- Director is reassuring staff. Next staff meeting is Jan 25; board representative will attend.
- President asked that Board members refer questions from public or press to her and reminded Board to speak in fact-based terms and in a respectful manner about the situation.

Ms. Regalado moved and Ms. Hospodarsky seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.