

CITY OF GLENDALE LIBRARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by the Vice Chair, Amanda Seligman via Zoom

Roll Call: Present: Amanda Seligman, Helaine Glass, Lin McCracken, Catherine Hansen, Ben Koziol, Lyndsay Smanz, Katie Wood. Absent: Mary Lynn Cinealis

Other Officials Present: Rachel Safstrom, City Administrator, Sarah Armstrong, Consultant, and Kaela Sullivan, Administrative Secretary.

Approval of the March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Glass, seconded by Ms. McCracken, to approve the March 23, 2021 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Survey Results

Sarah Armstrong shared the executive summary, discussed the highlights, and answered questions regarding the data. There were 719 survey responses and 97% of the respondents live in Glendale. Overall, residents desire traditional aspects of a library, as well as space for children and adults to read, work, and study.

Ms. Glass asked Ms. Armstrong how satisfied she was with the number of responses and how the responses compare to other communities. Ms. Armstrong stated the number of responses exceeded her expectations; over a tenth of the population replied, the responses are thorough, and age distribution is apparent. The City of Glendale received 422 responses in a full community survey in 2015, so Administrator Safstrom was also pleased with the number of library survey responses received.

Ms. Seligman questioned if Ms. Armstrong believes respondents understood there is a potential increase in property taxes. Ms. Armstrong stated that according to the comments, people recognize the value and support a library. With this, individuals who are skeptical may have had different responses if more information was provided.

Ms. Seligman thanked Ms. Armstrong for donating three \$100 giftcards for the survey drawing.

Ms. Wood arrived and chaired the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Hansen questioned whether Ms. Armstrong believes the Common Council will forge a new library plan according to the survey results. Ms. Armstrong explained that the Common Council members had thoughtful responses and were reluctant to take a stance until viewing the survey results, so she cannot provide a definite answer at this time. Ms. Hansen expressed her confusion of the Common Council members waiting for a response when they unanimously voted to leave the North Shore Library without a survey or community input. Ms. Wood stated that the convenience in a library could potentially be mistaken for accessibility.

Ms. Glass and Ms. Wood expressed concern in the lack of public education regarding Glendale's engagement with North Shore Library. Ms. Wood added that the public should be aware that the community is required to pay into the library system regardless of whether Glendale has its own library. Ms. McCracken stated there is also a disconnect with tax increases and proposed that the committee compares the North Shore Library and other municipalities taxes per year.

Administrator Safstrom stated that through the referendum process there would be continued education. If the Common Council determines to have a standalone library, the level of funding and a referendum would have to be addressed to potentially increase the tax levy.

Ms. Glass stated that the respondents indicating the North Shore Library is perfect may not recognize the entire library progression. Ms. Hansen was pleased with the number of people who want to continue to borrow physical books and desire electronic options. Ms. Hansen also explained the importance of providing sufficient parking.

Discussion of next steps

Ms. Wood stated the committee will meet on May 26, 2021 to develop a discussion and possible recommendation for the common council. Ms. Seligman questioned the context of a possible recommendation. Ms. Armstrong and Administrator Safstrom stated the recommendation would be presented with a series of statements.

Ms. Seligman asked the next steps of the Common Council after the committee presents a recommendation. Administrator Safstrom stated potential processes are determined by the next decision of the Council.

Ms. Wood will complete a draft response and send it to Administrator Safstrom by Thursday, May 20, 2021. Ms. Wood also proposed to advise the Common Council to hold a community educational meeting for the public.

Set Next Meeting Date

Ms. Wood stated the May 26, 2021 Library Review Committee meeting will be hosted in the Glendale Common Council Chambers and via Zoom at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Smanz, to adjourn the Library Review Committee meeting of May 19, 2021 at 6:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.