

Carter Memorial Library
Library Board Workshop: Expansion
Monday August 13, 2018
4:30 P.M.

Meeting began at 4:30 PM in the Alder Room at the Carter Memorial Library.

Attendance: Director Julie Stobbe, Lisa Sharkey, Jim Braasch, Marge Franzke, Barbara Hodgen, Heidi Wahlgren, Stacey Wright, Tom Ellis, Erin Calvin. Absent: Nicole Bahn.

Agenda:

1. Community Comparisons
2. Location Comparisons
3. Expansion Position
4. Library needs

Jim Braasch stated that the Hwy 21 bypass will not become a reality in Omro and that there possibly might be some housing developments starting on the north side of town, near Hwy 116. Pros and cons of building a new library at the Hwy 116 new development (if and when it happens) was documented.

Lisa Sharkey spoke to an American Legion representative, inquiring about their possible interest in sharing the cost of a new library building, including the Legion as sharing space.

Also mentioned was the possibility of the Police Dept or City Hall sharing a new building.

Some board members will attend the next city council meeting and ask the council members about their interest in adding a public relations position to the staff at the library.

Director Stobbe presented various data reports containing square footage, population, and materials and comparing the Omro data with the data from other libraries in cities similar in size to Omro. Also discussed was a space needs worksheet that Stobbe put together providing a general idea of how much space a library would need in order to accommodate the needs of the community. Another report, Wisconsin Public Library Standards, provided targets to achieve in various categories (library staff, collection size, internet, etc.), based on service population, ranking libraries at different levels of service.

Discussion continued regarding a foundation being set up to compliment the friends of the library, a group of people that would focus on raising a vast amount of money for expansion. A marketing coordinator might spearhead this group.

Heidi Wahlgren found some architects online that specialize in libraries. The links to these firms showed photos of the work that was done, as well as cost. Director Stobbe will forward those links to the board for perusal.

The date of the next meeting for expansion will be decided at the next regular board meeting to be held on August 20th.

Meeting ended at 6:06 PM

Respectfully submitted
Marge Franzke, secretary