



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, December 1, 2014
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Heather Hanna (reappointment – Library Board)

Ms. Hanna explained the “Ask RPL” text program.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Hanna was interested in continuing to serve on this board. Ms. Hanna stated that the Board has accomplished many things. She stated that she has learned that she possesses and has honed many skills during her time with the Library Board.

Ms. Hanna stated that she is very hands-on at the library and assisted with the move during renovations. She stated that the Board has completed its strategic planning, has kept up with technology, and has a new website.

Ms. Hanna described her work to integrate the “Word of the Week” at all City libraries and is now working to integrate the program into all County libraries. She stated that the Board also addressed many administrative tasks including creating a conflict of interest policy, bylaws, and a record retention policy.

Ms. Hanna stated that the “Food for Fines” program was very successful. She stated that many fines were cleared and many patrons have returned to the library now that their fines are cleared.

Ms. Hanna stated that the Library Board has dedicated members. She stated that she currently serves as Board secretary, chairs the Advancement Committee (formerly the Marketing

Committee), and serves on the Services Committee. She stated that the Advancement Committee is working on "Cocktails and Classics", the library's largest fundraiser. She noted the need for bigger impact events.

Ms. Hanna stated that the library has researched its many material losses and determined that they are mostly from those in the ADAPPT program. She stated that library policies are being changed to strengthen the rules for obtaining a library card. She stated that most ADAPPT participants are not City or County residents.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if theft charges were ever filed for the material losses. Ms. Hanna stated that the library would rather pursue the replacement of items and the payment of the fine.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the library consider filing charges. She stated that people participating in the ADAPPT program cannot afford to have additional charges on their record. Ms. Hanna stated that she will discuss this with the Board. She stated that she believes this was tried in the past and was not successful. She noted her willingness to look at this issue further. She noted the need for those applying for library cards to have a stable, permanent address.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Council on Chemical Abuse loans materials through the house manager so there is someone local and responsible overseeing the materials. She stated that this has assisted in reducing their loss of materials.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how many non-Reading residents use the City's libraries. Ms. Hanna explained that the City library acts as the County library center. She estimated that approximately half of patrons are non-Reading residents. She stated that she can obtain the specific number and provide the information.

Mr. Marmarou stated that when this was checked in the past it was over 60% of patrons.

Mr. Sterner stated that the library's annual report indicated that over 60,000 people use the library annually.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if there are losses at the branches. Ms. Hanna stated that the branches have reduced hours because of reduced funding. She expressed thanks to Council for providing additional funding to the library beginning in 2015. She stated that the additional funds are necessary for the survival of the library. She expressed the belief that the reduction in hours of the branch libraries has affected the neighborhoods. She stated that patrons often try to access the library only to find it closed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the City is struggling financially and library funding may not be sustainable.

Ms. Hanna stated that the library provides a safe and educational place for children. She stated that these children become teens who then make better life choices.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Heather Hanna to the Library Board.

Ms. Hanna thanked the Committee for their support. She expressed her love of the library.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the neighborhood around the main library was changing. Ms. Hanna stated that it is improving but that many things are still happening.

Allen Webster (reappointment – HARB)

Mr. Webster did not attend the meeting. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will follow up with Mr. Webster.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk