

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
5:00 pm

A special meeting to discuss the proposed merger of the City's Historical museum function and facilities.

ATTENDEES:

Chairperson Marcel Pultorak, Present
Vice Chairperson Dr. Ryan Lazar, Present
Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad, Present
Commissioner Barth Bucciarelli, Present
Commissioner Gerilyn Biggs, Present
Commissioner Ali Dagher, Present
Commissioner Michelle Jawad, Present

Interim Library Director Julie Schaefer, Present
Administrative Librarian Patty Podzikowski, Present

Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM

I. Review matters relating to the proposed merger

Chairperson Marcel began by reading the proposal put forth by the City. He included some information that he would like added, which includes a request upon the City to pledge to give the Library money to maintain the museum and its' facilities. He would like to have a caveat on there that says that the library taking on the museum would not impair/impact library functions. Marcel indicated that he met with the museum curator Jack Tate to discuss this merger and to try and find out what needs the museum currently has, and what could the library expect in the future. Jack indicated that the HVAC needs to be redone at the McFadden Ross House. The entire heating system is poor because they must also run gas fireplaces. Currently, they have volunteers working on redoing the windows at the Commandants' Quarters. The porch repair is in the capital improvement budget. The Annex has physical items in storage.

Marcel talked about the financial projections that The Commissioners received earlier and said that it appears that the Library Fund can handle the merger. A discussion ensued about the library funds going into the future.

There were concerns expressed by some Commissioners about the role of the Historical Commission. Would they still be a governing body? Or would they just be an advisory board? There were also concerns about the job of Chief Curator. This position is appointed by the Mayor, but would be under the purview of the Library Director, which could cause conflict. Also, Commissioner Jihan Jawad expressed concerns over the

long-term maintenance of the museum buildings because historical renovations have their own unique costs and needs. Commissioner Dagher said that he has concerns about the budget (personnel, upkeep, etc.) and integration of the two entities. Marcel will get more information about all of these matters and take these concerns to a meeting with the Mayor.

II. Adopting a resolution approving this change

Chair Pultorak suggested that if he could get assurances from the Mayor for providing additional resources for upkeep of the Historical facilities and clarification about restructuring the Historical Commission as an advisory body to the Library Commission, the resolution as originally submitted be approved. Ali Dagher made the motion and Barth Bucciarelli seconded. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Commissioners Dagher and Bucciarelli both indicated that they are excited about this merger and think it is a good solution, but they have legitimate concerns about implementation, impairment of library functions, facilities management and especially budgetary issues.

See next page for the Resolution

Resolution: Recognizing the Division of Museum as part of the Department of Libraries

WHEREAS: City Charter Section 10.20 states that “[t]he Department of Librarians shall be under the general management and control of a Library Commission...[t]he Commission shall determine the policies of the Department of Libraries...and shall select a Library Director...who shall administer the activities of the Department of Libraries and be the appointing authority for all other library employees”, be it further

WHEREAS: The Historical Commission is currently responsible for the general administration of the museum and its contents and the Chief Curator, a classified service position appointed by the Mayor, is responsible for carrying out the powers and duties prescribed in Article III, Division 3 (City Code Secs. 2-406 through 2-414), be it further

WHEREAS: The City seeks to establish the City’s Museum as a Division of the Department of Libraries in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, be it further

WHEREAS: Adoption of this resolution by the Library Commission is dependent upon the City amending City Code Secs. 2-406 through 2-414 (Historical Commission) pursuant to City Charter, Sec. 10.9 (Multi-member bodies) to reflect the Historical Commission as an advisory commission that issues advisory opinions concerning the general administration of the museum and its contents to the Library Commission, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Library Commission hereby recognizes the Museum as a division of the Department of Libraries conditioned upon the City amending City Code Secs. 2-406 through 2-414 (Historical Commission) to reflect the Historical Commission as an advisory commission that issues advisory opinions concerning the general administration of the museum and its contents to the Library Commission and further conditioned upon the City reserving proceeds from any future sale of land at the NE corner of Michigan Avenue at Brady Street adjacent to the McFadden-Ross House to be held for use to maintain or improve the City’s Historical Museum buildings.

Offered by Commissioner Dagher, seconded by Commissioner Bucciarelli,

Approved Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM