

SPOONER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
421 High Street, Spooner, WI
August 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER – Bodzislaw called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL – Present: Angie Bodzislaw, Chris Bruce, Audrey Kevan, Kelly Schmidt, Jocelyn Ford

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

D. OLD BUSINESS – None

E. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Review Campaign Readiness Study Report

a. Upcoming communications plan

i. The committee discussed some questions raised as a result of the Campaign Readiness Study (page 14-15 of Campaign Readiness Study Report). Bodzislaw will make an FAQ sheet addressing those questions using the feedback from the Committee.

b. Suggestions to keep excitement high

i. The committee discussed next steps regarding updating the public on the status of the campaign and building project. Bodzislaw will work on an informative flyer for the front desk, social media, and the website. Bodzislaw will also reach out the Advocate regarding another article with an update.

2. Review Digital Equity Grant

a. Overview

i. Bodzislaw informed the Committee on a new grant opportunity – The Federal Digital Equity Competitive Grant. The grant supports efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion activities, and spur greater adoption and use of broadband among covered populations. The plan would be for the Library (an anchor institution) and City of Spooner (a political subdivision) to be partner organizations. The grant is due September 23rd and awarded Winter 2024 with a 4-year period of performance. The grant is for \$5-12 million with the ability to apply for less or more. The Library can receive both grants (the one already applied for and the Digital Equity Grant). There is a 10% matching requirement with unclear guidelines if the State grant qualifies for that 10%. The grant is competitive with two separate stages of review. Stage one includes a 100-point system where applicants must score at least 70. Stage two gives points based on matching funds, whether the grant addresses aspects of the digital divide, if it promotes access to workforce, education, and healthcare (etc.), and its long-term impact and sustainability. The State grant application that was already submitted will help tremendously in the application of the Digital Equity Grant. Unfortunately, the grantees are not able to answer one-one questions so there are a lot of questions unanswered. Bodzislaw is attending webinars offered for the grant hoping to gain more understanding on the grant requirements and the eligibility. The Library would apply under the allowable category “To make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware or software, or digital network technology for broadband services to covered populations at low or no cost. To construct, upgrade, expand or operate new or existing public access computing centers through community anchor institutions.” Next steps include Bodzislaw getting on the City Council’s agenda for approval of the partnership, reaching out to BrandRaise regarding cost/availability of helping write the grant, reaching out the Sherry (NWLS) to see if she has any knowledge

on the grant and how it applies to libraries, and reaching out to Tammy Baldwin to see if she can help clarify some of the grant language.

b. Questions

i. Addressed above.

3. Review Campaign Strategy

a. Campaign marketing efforts will be increased with more additions to non-digital updates.

4. Review Recommended and Self-Identified Committee Member List

a. The Committee was given a list provided by BrandRaise of individuals recommended or self-identified for possible committee work in the future. The group decided to hold off on reaching out to individuals until the committees are formed (post grant announcement).

5. Discuss Post-Grant Scenarios

a. If the Library does not receive the Flexible Facilities grant the plan is to fundraise for an 11,000 square foot library.

F. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 9th, 10:00 a.m. (Next Trustee Meeting is August 27th, 5:00 p.m.)

G. ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.