

November 8, 2018
Joint City Council and Library Board Minutes

The November 8, 2018, City Council joint meeting with the Cascade Library Board was called to order at 5:50PM by Mayor Staner. Council members answering roll call were Hosch, Delaney, Knepper and Rausch. Kelchen was absent. Library Board members present were Ludwig, Kearney, Recker, Brickley, along with Director Melissa Kane. Board member White was absent.

The City Council thought it was a good idea to hold a joint meeting with the Library Board to discuss the future of the library building. There had been discussion and rough plans drawn up to add on to the front and the rear of the existing library. Then there was more discussion on acquiring a portion of the Cascade Municipal Utilities building and renovating the dance factory section into the library. Since those discussions, constructing a new library was mentioned. The pros and cons were reviewed for all the options and also considered was what makes the most fiscal sense, what is best for the citizens of Cascade and what will make the most sense in the future. Everyone uses the library from 0 years old to 100. A library is not just about books anymore. A library offers many programs and services to the community. One idea for next summer is to offer lunches to kids.

From the discussion held, renovating the dance factory isn't really an option since the building is not very conducive to having books in it. The humidity and other environmental issues could pose an unhealthy situation for having a library there. The other con for moving the library out to the dance factory is it not being located in the downtown.

Since the City Council is working on rehabilitating the downtown it makes more sense to keep the library downtown as well. Some lots and areas in the downtown were discussed as possible locations for a new building. Funding for the new building was also discussed. This would include grants, donations and a possible bond by the City.

Other small cities will be contacted who have recently built a new library and see what their project cost was and how it was funded. The Library Board will develop a plan of what they want to see in the building and then a location will be determined. The process will happen in steps. If land needs to be acquired the City Council will discuss when they hold their budget workshops starting in January.

The meeting was productive and once some more information is obtained, another joint meeting will be held and then the details will be ironed out and the steps to move forward will be put into place.

With nothing further, Rausch moved and Delaney seconded to adjourn at 6:54p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Deanna McCusker, City Administrator

Greg Staner, Mayor