

JOINT COUNCIL/LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2002
1:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at 1:00 P.M. in a joint meeting with the Library Committee. The following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Darrell Swanson, Sandy Eliason, Chuck Miller, Irene Schultz and Dean Swanson. Also present was City Administrator Tom Swenson and Clerk/Treasurer Darlene Roach. Present from the Library Committee was Chair Ray Smyth, Alden Hardwick, Virginia Dolmar and Marilyn Daugenbaugh. Also present was Library Consultant Boris Frank. There were two individuals in the audience.

Mayor Swanson called the Special Meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and turned the meeting over to Library Committee Chairman Ray Smyth who stated that there were three items the Library Committee wished to discuss with the Council.

Earlier in the day, the Library Committee met with Consultant Boris Frank and Kitchigami Regional Library System Director Marian Ridge. As a result of this meeting, a timeline for fundraising was developed which Boris Frank presented to the Council. The Committee is hoping that one half the cost of the library will be obtained through pledges and donations. Boris Frank suggested that the summer months of June through October of 2002 be used for plan administration, writing of programs, preliminary design rendering, gathering of preliminary budget, design materials and public input. In November, financing decisions should begin. In the months of December through January, the "quiet phase" will take place. This is the timeframe when the major donors will be identified. Also during these two months, architectural drawings should be completed. During January through March of 2003, the community fund raising campaign should begin, a final design of the building should be completed, a preliminary budget drafted and a projected number of employees identified. In June of 2003, a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled to start construction with completion in June 2004.

Chairman Ray Smyth addressed how to obtain funding beyond fund raising. Whereas seasonal recreational properties are now exempt from being taxed on general obligation bonds, the only option available, which would include all property owners, would be the issuance of revenue bonds. Revenue bonds could be issued through the Economic Development Authority, however this option would take the decision out of the hands of the voters. Councilmember Eliason asked if the Community Meetings could incorporate discussion on a library early on in the Comprehensive Plan discussions in order to get a feeling within the Community in regards to a library by November. Councilmember Schultz felt that sewer should be the City's first priority when it comes to issuing bonds and wondered what effect bonds for a library would have on property owners. City Administrator Tom Swenson has obtained information from Ehlers & Associates as to what effect a \$600,000 bond issue would have on taxes. On a home valued at \$100,000,

taxes would increase \$10.00 per year for a twenty-year bond issue. A \$300,000 home would increase approximately \$31.00 per year for a twenty-year issue. City Administrator Swenson also commented that it takes a \$600,000 bond issue to get \$500,000 in construction money when interest and issuance costs are added on. Mayor Swenson asked about the library tax that is assessed to the County. Chairman Ray Smyth stated that the library tax would no longer be assessed by the County, but would be assessed by the City and paid to the City.

The third issue under consideration is the site for the library. If the Community Center site is used, a decision needs to be made whether to pursue connecting the two buildings or build a freestanding building. The Library Committee requested Council consent to explore costs for both options. Park and Recreation Director Jon Henke favors connecting the buildings since the library could be used for recreation programs. Also with the library's limited hours, staff could be shared which could allow for extended library hours.

Park and Recreation Commission Member Bob Mattson felt that over the long term, connecting the two buildings would be more economical, however, may be more costly up front. Sharing of staff would be advantageous. Councilmember Miller stated that a larger building may require installation of a sprinkler system.

Chairman Ray Smyth summarized the feelings regarding the three issues discussed. The Library Committee and Council both agree that the time schedule for the various activities appears to be reasonable. Regarding funding, a preliminary decision could be made this fall regarding whether revenue bonds would be an option with a final decision to be made sometime in March of 2003, after fund raising has taken place. Thirdly, that the Council is receptive to looking at a physical connection between the two buildings.

MOTION 06S1-01-02 WAS MADE BY SANDY ELIASON AND SECONDED BY DEAN SWANSON TO ADJOURN THIS SPECIAL MEETING AT 1:48 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Recorded and transcribed by,



Darlene J. Roach
Clerk/Treasurer