



West Fargo Public Library Board of Directors Meeting

Special Session Wednesday, July 26, 2023

5:00 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chambers

Board Members Present: Liann Hanson, Mandy George Alanna Rerick, Larry Schwartz, Tony Stukel

Also Present: Assistant City Administrator Dustin Scott, HR Generalist Nathan Skalsky, Office Coordinator Alisha Reis

I. Call to Order

Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Library Director Hiring Decision (Action)

Assistant City Administrator Dustin Scott updated the Board members on the hiring process. A Hiring Committee consisting of Hanson, Schwartz, Scott, a representative from City of West Fargo Human Resources, and a representative from the Library staff, conducted interviews with three candidates on July 12. Scott recommended Jenna Kahly for the Director role on behalf of the Hiring Committee.

Commissioner George acknowledged that she had previously worked with Kahly on another board and praised her qualifications for the role. However, Stukel raised concerns about Kahly not having a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree, which was one of the minimum qualifications for the position. Scott, HR Generalist Skalsky, and Hanson explained that the Hiring Committee had taken this matter into consideration, but according to the job description, equivalent education and experience were qualifying factors for the role. Scott also shared positive feedback from Kahly's five professional references. Rerick confirmed that the Hiring Committee's Library representative agreed that Kahly's lack of an MLS degree would not be an issue for the Library. Commissioner George noted Kahly's prior experience as a Clay County Commissioner and serving on other boards would make her a successful leader for the Library. Hanson read a statement from the Hiring Committee's Library representative, which expressed enthusiasm and hope for Kahly's appointment. The statement highlighted Kahly's commitment, experience, and previous work at Lake Agassiz Library System, along with her ability to manage in-house and community factions, her willingness to ask difficult questions, and her potential to be a beneficial leader for the Library and the greater West Fargo community.

Hanson motioned to initiate job offer negotiations with Kahly, which Rerick seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

Following the motion, Schwartz addressed concerns about Kahly's lack of an MLS degree. He emphasized the need to have a Director who could immediately start leading the library and communicate effectively with the City Commission, constituents, and community organizations. Schwartz suggested that other degreed staff within the library could advise Kahly if necessary. Hanson and Stukel agreed with Schwartz's points.

III. Adjourn

Hanson moved to adjourn. Schwartz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried at 5:27 p.m.