

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
FEBRUARY 11, 2019

The joint study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council, Farmington City Council and Farmington Community Library Board was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:00pm.

Farmington Hills Council Members Present: Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Farmington Council Members Present: Bowman, Galvin, Schneemann and Taylor

Library Board Members Present: Brucki, Hahn, Huyck, Largent, Montgomery, White and Zervos

Members Absent: Joe LaRussa (Farmington Council) and Elizabeth Rae-O'Donnell (Library Board)

LIBRARY BOARD UPDATE

Discussion was held on the controversy that surrounded the Library and Board members at that time amidst proposed changes to the 12 Mile Road building. It was noted that the responsibility of the funding and day-to-day operations of the Library are that of the Library Board and the responsibility of the Farmington and Farmington Hills Councils is to appoint members to the Board; but that the Councils also needed to be able to answer to their residents.

Jim White, Library Board President, presented a powerpoint discussing the fiscal year statistics relating to use of the library facilities, outreach efforts, electronic resources, programs, proposed building improvements and acknowledging their community partners. He noted that the Board has created various subcommittees, including the Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Community Liaison Committee, Facilities Committee and Strategic Planning Committee and asked the Chair of each to speak about their activities. Going forward the Library Board intends to explore a dedicated teen room, additional group collaboration space and outdoor working space, on-line payment of fees, a new outdoor marquee sign and re-carpeting of the children's area.

Discussion was held on the usage trends of the Library and how the Library intends to keep up with changing technology. It was noted that while visitors and book circulation is down, there is an increase in e-services. The library stats tend to fluctuate with the economy experiencing a higher usage in a lower economy and usage is sometimes difficult to track as the resources are being used on site. For a library of this size, they have a very successful rate of service.

It was mentioned that part of the strategic planning process is for the Board to educate themselves on what is available and what is in demand from the residents. There is a high demand for collaborative space and the Board needs to determine how to provide that space and also connect people through their e-services; but the Library is also careful to not only track trends but try to serve the community as a whole.

The City of Farmington Hills created a task force to explore the possibility of municipal broadband, which was identified as a possible area for collaboration with the library.

The aging facilities, attracting youth, and presenting topics to the public such as space, medicine and technology were identified as future challenges. The Board felt that a good challenge going forward was finding creative ways to reach out to the community.

The Board was asked about the two facilities in light of the trends. They are committed long-term to the downtown location and as part of the strategic planning process want to hear from the community on their needs in order to prioritize the best use of the facilities and maintain what is needed and repurpose where it can for other needs.

The target age group and early childhood program were discussed. It was pointed out that the Library is still providing all of the early childhood programs, but determined that more focus was needed on attracting ages 13-30.

The Library Board was asked to keep in mind during their budget review that the property tax revenue collected by the library is more than that collected by the City of Farmington and to also consider a community-wide compensation comparative and if they are collecting more property taxes than needed to review that going forward.

The parking in downtown Farmington was mentioned and the fact that the lot is always full when the library is open. Councilmember Galvin suggested some joint dialogue with regard to re-engineering the parking and encouraged library board members to attend their parking committee meetings.

The Board was asked to consider the skill set needed for future members.

Councilmember Rich felt it might be time to consider moving to an elected board rather than an appointed board.

The Councils thanked the Library Board Members for the information provided and for their time and leadership. The Board was asked to think about what they need/want as far as support from the Councils and to reach out to them with that information.

It was acknowledged that the Library Board had provided their audit, but a request was made to also include the back-up material for their budgets going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk