

Holdrege Area Public Library

Library Planning Committee Meeting December 16, 2025

The meeting of the Holdrege Area Public Library Planning Committee was called to order at 4:02 in the conference room in compliance with the Nebraska Public/Open Meetings Act, posted on the north wall of the room. Committee members Cassie Ehrenberg, Julie Johnson, Lori Larson, Annette Sindt, Bill Yochum, Anna Sertich and Sue Christensen were present, as was Library Director Sierra Burrows. Members Rosanna Meyer, Maureen Epping, and Cindy Woollen did not attend.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

Business: Scott Larson, consultant for Strawhecker Nonprofit Services, presented and reviewed the Philanthropic Planning Study Final Report that he prepared for the library. The purpose of the Philanthropic Planning Study for the library was to test the support and feasibility of conducting a \$5 million fundraising campaign to support the construction of a new library. Ryan Strawhecker from Strawhecker Nonprofit Services and Matt Kreutzer and Jim Brisnehan from CMBA Architects joined the meeting and discussion remotely via google meet and were able to contribute their insights and assist in answering questions raised by board members throughout and following the presentation.

Main takeaways were that there is a large financial gap between what could be raised based upon this study and the cost of the proposed library building, making the needed bond amount greater than the city recommended. This study only included possible private donations and not corporate, foundations, grants, or a public fundraising campaign. Suggestions from Strawhecker included delaying the bond by a year to allow more time for raising capital, and/or “key next step” revising the building plans to include a proposed Phase 1, Phase 2 to include a fallback design if the necessary capital cannot be raised. They recommended a PREcampaign of 6-12 months to institute an education campaign. They also recommended that 50% of the needed capital should be raised before launching the capital campaign publicly. Matt from CMBA said that they could accommodate the Phase 1 - Phase 2 building design suggestion and would be available to assist with the education campaign. The board members agreed to take necessary steps to get an education campaign in place by January and February, visit with the city administrators, and continue to build the capital funds through grants and donations to try to keep things on track for a bond in November of 2026.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Christensen, secretary