

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library was held at the Library room on Monday evening, May 26th, 1902, at 7:30 o'clock.

The following directors were present: President Starr, presiding; Directors Coffin, Cypreansen, Frawley, Bullen, Putnam, and Lockwood.

On motion of Director Coffin the reading of the record of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

A committee of the common council of the City of Eau Claire consisting of Aldermen Singleton, Seyberth, and Severson, appointed to confer with the Board regarding the sites selected for the Carnegie Library Building, met with the Board and reported the action of the council in sustaining the minority report of the Committee on Public Works. The majority and minority reports of the Committee were as follows:

MAJORITY REPORT.

We, the committee on public works, return the within resolution and recommend that it be adopted.

David Drummond.

Robt. A. Lang.

John H. Fleming.

Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Eau Claire:

That the report of the board of directors of the

Eau Claire Library in selecting a site for public library in the city of Eau Claire be, and the same is hereby accepted and approved.

MINORITY REPORT.

To the Common Council of the City of Eau Claire:

Your committee to whom was referred the report of the Public Library Board, respectfully report as follows:

A very large majority of our citizens, as we believe, including many of the heaviest tax payers, are disappointed and dissatisfied with the site selected by the Library Board for the new library.

The objections of the people to the Hinrichs' site are based upon two very important reasons, namely, the situation of the property and the price thereof, as compared with other sites offered. We submit that these are two of the three elements which should have determined the question. The third element is that of location. It is self evident that the question of situation and price had little, if any, determining influence on the minds of the Library Board in selecting the site. For it goes without argument that the site selected is, in point of situation and the character of the property adjacent to it on two sides, the most objectionable of all the sites offered. Because of the very high rate of taxation that now exists we deem the question of price of primary

importance. Furthermore, it is estimated that an expenditure of from \$1500 to \$2000 will be required to put the Hinrichs' site in condition to receive the building. We think it will be conceded that an annual expenditure of at least \$5000 will be required to maintain the library and this perpetually. We are informed that the Truax site offered at a cost of \$4500 may now be had through the generosity of citizens in favor of that site, at a cost not to exceed \$3500. We have no hesitation in saying that if the Library Board will express its willingness to at least further consider the matter, the Truax site may be had at a cost not to exceed \$2500. This would mean a saving of \$6000 to the city. Entertaining the belief that the Library Board will be disposed to consider in a fair and friendly spirit with this council, so important a matter, to the end that the selection and purchase of a site may accord with the best interests of the city, we respectfully recommend that a committee of three, to be chosen by this council, be appointed to confer with said Library Board upon the question at issue.

Ole Arnstad.

Jos. W. Singleton.

Alderman Singleton, chairman of the committee, then read and filed with the secretary the following communication:

To the Honorable Members of the Public Library Board:

The undersigned respectfully informs your Honorable Board that at the last regular meeting of the common council, they were, by resolution, appointed a committee to confer with your Honorable Board concerning the purchase of a site for the Carnegie Library. The majority of the council are convinced that because of the situation and price of the Hinrichs site, as compared with other sites offered, a grave mistake has been made in the selection thereof for the said Library. The council deemed it expedient to respectfully inform your Honorable Board of the view taken by the council thereon, and through this committee to respectfully urge such action on the part of your Honorable Board as may be presumed will better conserve the interests of the city and protect the rights of the tax payers thereof. We wish to say at the outset that this committee approaches the task assigned to it by the council, in no spirit of dictation or antagonism to the Library Board. We appreciate and respect the eminent standing in this community of the members that comprise the Board.

The suggestions of this committee are few, but we deem them important. Your records will show that this committee were among those of a majority of the council, who long before your Board formally adopted the Hinrichs site, informed you that the Truax site could be procured at a cost to the city of \$4500. This was because the citizens favoring the Truax site had rais-

ed \$1500. To-night, for the same reason, we are able to assure you that the Truax site may be procured at a cost to the city of not to exceed \$3500.

We understand that even the members of your Board concede that the Truax site, in point of situation and the character of the surrounding property, excels the other sites offered and we submit that it is within reasonable distance of the business center of the city and therefore is, considering location, situation and price, the most desirable site offered. It will be urged, perhaps, that the selection of the Truax site would not be fair to the residents of the North side, but it should be remembered, as the fact is, that so far as the West side is considered, there is no North side. The Chippewa River divides the city about equally into the West and East sides. The Grand Avenue Bridge is the main thoroughfare that connects these two sides. If a site was offered on the East side, which was well situated and at a reasonable price and located within a reasonable distance of the east end of the Grand Avenue Bridge, the residents of the West side of the Chippewa River ought not be heard to complain. It follows necessarily that if such a site is offered on the West side, near the west end of Grand Avenue Bridge, the residents of the East side of the Chippewa River could make no just complaint. Although a majority of the council have

expressed themselves in favor of the selection of the Truax site, they do not, however, wish to be understood as urging its claims to an unreasonable degree. If other portions of the city have other sites to offer, the residents in favor of such sites ought to back their sentiments in a practical and substantial way as the residents in favor of the Truax site have done, to the end that the city may secure a good site at the lowest price to the tax payers; in other words, if the residents of the East side are to insist that the Library shall be located on the East side, they should, we insist, subscribe such sum as will reduce the cost to the city of the site to be chosen to an amount which will not exceed the sum for which the Truax site may be purchased.

We anticipate that it may be urged that the city is legally bound by your action already had, to take the Hinrichs site. In order to eliminate this question, the council of the city, in the event that your Honorable Board deems it expedient to select another and different site than the Hinrichs site, will assume the entire responsibility of making a satisfactory adjustment of that question with Mr. Hinrichs.

In conclusion we again beg to assure you that it is the zealous desire of the council, which we repre-

sent, that such friendly co-operation may be given by this committee to your Honorable Board as will render results more satisfactory to all concerned. However, candor compels us at this time to respectfully notify your Honorable Board that your report already before the common council, relating to the purchase of the Hinrichs site, is such as the council will not approve, and if the same cannot be changed or modified, will cause the council to consider the advisability of the city foregoing the Carnegie gift.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Jos W Singleton.

M. Severson.

L Seyberth.

On motion of Director Coffin the Board adjourned subject to call of either the president or secretary.

W. L. Coffin
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