



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Council Session

Item G9

#2012-162 - Approving Changing the Name of the Public Library's Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room

Staff Contact: Steve Fosselman

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steve Fosselman, Library Director

Meeting: June 26, 2012

Subject: Approving Changing the Name of the Public Library's Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room

Item #'s: G-9

Presenter(s): Steve Fosselman, Library Director

Background

For many years the City of Grand Island Public Library has dedicated various spaces and collections to the study of genealogy, local history and other aspects of our community's heritage. The development of these services was largely due to the efforts of Roberta A. Lawrey, library director from 1959-1991, who was instrumental in the establishment of a genealogy collection and in the construction of the Edith Abbott Memorial Library in 1974. Among her many honors through the years were Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Woman Award, the Independent's Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi Woman of the Year (twice), Grand Island Senior High Hall of Honor, and Nebraska Library Association Meritorious Service and Excalibur Award honors.

Discussion

Recently, several library patrons have requested that Roberta be honored in a special way in our newly expanded and renovated facility. These patrons have suggested the renaming of our Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room. This area of the library houses the State DAR genealogy collection, the Prairie Pioneer Genealogical Society collection, various census and newspaper microfilm collections, the Abbott Sisters Research Center, and a Local Library History section.

Because of Roberta's many years of commitment to the development of the services housed in the Heritage Room as well as her extraordinary career of service to this library and community, on April 16, 2012 the Library Board of Trustees approved the renaming of this room and forwarding this as a request for City Council approval. In the interim, City Attorney Robert Sivick has been working on a citywide Naming Rights policy for City Council consideration under which honors such as this would fall. Inasmuch as the work on this policy is still underway, the Library Board's renaming request is similar to a

previous City Council approval of the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail, and with respect to timing due to Roberta's health, this item is coming before the City Council at this time for approval.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve changing the name of the Public Library's Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room.

Sample Motion

Move to approve changing the name of the Public Library's Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room.

RESOLUTION 2012-162

WHEREAS, for many years the City of Grand Island Public Library has dedicated various spaces and collections to the study of genealogy, local history and other aspects of our community's heritage; and

WHEREAS, the development of these services was largely due to the efforts of Roberta A. Lawrey, library director from 1959-1991, who was instrumental in the establishment of a genealogy collection and in the construction of the Edith Abbott Memorial Library in 1974, and who has been honored for her achievements throughout the years, including Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Woman Award, the Independent's Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi Woman of the Year (twice), Grand Island Senior High Hall of Honor, and Nebraska Library Association Meritorious Service and Excalibur Award honors; and

WHEREAS, in the public library's newly expanded and renovated facility, the Heritage Room houses the State DAR genealogy collection, the Prairie Pioneer Genealogical Society collection, various census and newspaper microfilm collections, the Abbott Sisters Research Center, and a Local Library History section; and

WHEREAS, several library patrons have requested that Roberta be honored in a special way by the renaming of our Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room; and

WHEREAS, the library Board of Trustees has approved the renaming of this room and forwarding this as a request for City Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City Council hereby recognizes the substantial contributions made by Grand Island resident Roberta A. Lawrey in the development and implementation of public library services in Grand Island, and hereby renames the public library's Heritage Room to the Roberta A. Lawrey Heritage Room;

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 26, 2012.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
June 26, 2012	☐ City Attorney