



106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-4985

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 27, 2024  
**TO:** Oshkosh Public Library Board  
**FROM:** Darryl Eschete, Library Director  
**SUBJECT:** Hicks-Donated Bronze Bust at Washington Elementary

On Wednesday, June 12, Board President Bracken and I met with:

- Anna Cannizzo, interim director of the Oshkosh Public Museum
- Julie Conrad-Peters, Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Oshkosh Area Schools
- Mark Lyons, Planning Services Manager for City of Oshkosh Community Development

During this meeting we discussed the bronze bust of George Washington formerly located at the base of the flagpole outside of Washington Elementary School at 929 Winnebago Ave. This bust was one of the bronze works donated by Colonel John Hicks to the City of Oshkosh early in the last century, a collection the management and care of which is under the Library Board's purview. Since the sale of the school, the bust has been removed from the site by the school district and is currently housed in a district maintenance shop.

As per Ms. Cannizzo, Public Museum staff will coordinate with the school district to take custody of the bust and suitably store it and assess its condition. She stated that this may involve the construction of special apparatus to ensure its safe storage. If the bust needs any sort of extraordinary care or cleaning, Ms. Cannizzo stated that she would let me know so that the Library Board might approve use of money from the Hicks fund set aside for care of the public sculpture in the Hicks collection.

Mr. Lyons relayed that the Stevens Park Neighborhood Association has expressed interest in finding a new home for the bust for public display in that neighborhood and that his department is recommending they apply for Great Neighborhood funding to determine, design and implement a new location for the bust. Mr. Lyons stated that he will make clear to the association that the neighborhood will not have the final say in where it goes as the City needs to continue to be the final decision maker as the bust is an asset of the City under the authority of the Library Board, but that the input of that Association will be given due weight.

I will continue to keep the Board apprised as the bust moves towards a new location.

*"A Library in Every Life"*