

**Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: 10-23-12

Agenda Date Requested: 11-1-12

Time Requested: 5 minutes

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Melanie Bruketta, HR Director

Subject Title: Information item: Recognition of Sara Jones who was recently named the 2012 Nevada Library Association's Librarian of the Year.

Staff Summary: Sara Jones, Carson City Library Director, was named Librarian of Year at the 67th annual conference of the Nevada Library Association.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution

☐ Ordinance

☐ Formal Action/Motion

☒ Other (specify)

Does this Action Require a Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Recommended Board Action: N/A

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: Sara Jones, Carson City Library Director, was named Librarian of Year at the 67th annual conference of the Nevada Library Association. Her nomination was supported by library staff, the Carson City Library Board of Trustees, the Carson City Friends of the Library, the Carson City Library Foundation, the Mayor and the City Manager. Sara Jones was hired as the Carson City Library Director in January, 2007. Since that time, new technology has been installed in the library allowing for the extension of library hours, a BranchAnywhere machine was installed at the Boys & Girls Club, and the Business Resource Innovation Center opened. Ms. Jones received her masters in Library Science from Syracuse University, graduating magna cum laude. She received her Secondary Reading and English 5th year Education credential from Boise State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interpersonal Communication from Boise State. Mrs. Jones has over 25 years of library experience with 15 of those years in the management of public libraries. She was the Nevada State Librarian under the Guinn Administration.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

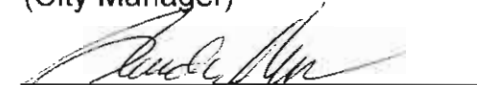
Explanation of Impact: N/A

Supporting Material: October 10, 2012 press release, August 29, 2012 letter of nomination by Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager, August 29, 2012 letter of nomination by Robert L. Crowell, Mayor, August 29, 2012 letter of nomination by the Carson City Library Board of Trustees, letter of nomination by Phyllis Patton, President, Friends of the Carson City Library, August 30, 2012 letter of nomination by Severin A. Carlson, Chairman, Carson City Library Foundation.

Prepared By: Melanie Bruketta, HR Director 

Reviewed By: 
(City Manager)

Date: 10/23/12


(District Attorney)

Date: 10/23/12

Board Action Taken:

Motion(s): _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nays
2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 10, 2012

Contact: Andi Moore, Program and Outreach Manager

awmoore@clan.lib.nv.us

775.220.4526



Carson City Library Director, Sara Jones, Named Nevada Librarian of the Year

Las Vegas, NEVADA-Carson City Library Director Sara Jones was named the 2012 Nevada Library Association's (NLA) Librarian of the Year at its 67th annual conference, held Oct. 4 & 5 at the Sahara West Library in Las Vegas. Jones joins the ranks of an elite group of librarians recognized for effective advancement and extension of library services; exemplary library management; notable activity in recruitment to the profession; statewide planning and for broadening the scope of library and information service to the community.

With full support of the Carson City Library staff, the Carson City Library Board of Trustees, the Carson City Friends of the Library, the Carson City Library Foundation, the Carson City Manager and Carson City's Mayor, Jones' nomination focused on the last six years of her Carson City service, although her career spans over twenty-five years. Prior to the Carson City director position, Jones was the Nevada State Librarian under the Guinn administration.

For Carson City service, Jones was cited with noteworthy fiscally restrained management and transformative leadership which have resulted in additional hours open to the public, increased and improved technology, added services and more space, within two new branches.

"She has been able to organize staff in a manner that creates greater community access to the library, while at the same time reduces expenses to help meet community budget goals. The vision of Mrs. Jones to see the role of the library in the digital world has been successful in increasing the number of patrons across all age groups. Also, she has been instrumental in bringing brand new technology to the library in forms such as radio frequency identification for check in and out of materials that resulted in extending library service hours, by installing a robotic branch library at the local Boys and Girls Club and by creating a computer learning center available to all," said Carson City Manager Larry Werner in a letter of support for Jones nomination.

A nearly six year Carson City chronology of Jones' leadership shows increased connection with youth, adults, business and the elderly with focused library services and programming related to pressing civic and economic community issues.

"Sara has developed the social and economic fibers that, at a pivotal time in Carson City's history, have essentially woven together the community itself and then effectively hailed the public library as a place for everyone. One only needs to review 2011 the Carson City Library's circulation, use and programming records to see the way more than 1,000 patrons each day interact with the Carson City Library (see sidebar *2011 R.O.I.*), which reflects tremendous gains from the previous decade at the Carson City Library," said Carson City Library Trustee Chairwoman Sandy Foley.

Today the Carson City Library operates two new branches and its main location offers expanded access to technology and librarian-led technology education. Founded in 1969, and since 1971, the Carson City Library is located at 900 Roop Street. The two specialized branches are the Business Resource Innovation Center, known as "the BRIC," located at 108 E. Proctor Street and the Carson City Library Branch Anywhere @ the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western

Nevada, located at 1870 Russell Way.

As a business branch of the Carson City Library, the BRIC is focused on support of existing and new business as well as regional economic development through collections, programming, technology, meeting spaces, business counseling and strategic partnerships. As a special library focused on local business support and regional economic development, the BRIC is in line with the strategic plan of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development to help spur economic growth throughout the State. Please visit www.nevadasworkingcapital.com to learn more about specific economic development goals. The alliance between municipal business regulators, municipal library services and statewide economic development is the first of its kind for the State of Nevada.

The BranchAnywhere is a secure automated library machine that circulates a 525 item collection and stores 240 items, handles loans, accepts returns, performs basic administration, and connects to the library's automated library system. The purpose of the BranchAnywhere is to provide currently under served patrons at the Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada with access to popular books, audiovisual materials, digital tools and special programs.

"Sara's practical expectation of integrating technology in typical environments embodies an embedded library approach that supports education and business. This brings technology leadership into the entire community," said Library Trustee Robin Williamson, "that's what public libraries are all about."

Jones received her M.L.S from Syracuse University, Graduate Magna Cum Laude. She has a Secondary Reading and English 5th year Education Credential from Boise State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal Communication, earned in 1984, also from Boise State. She has over 25 years experience in libraries, 15 of those in the management of public libraries. She was the Nevada State Library and Archives Administrator. She has been the project director of two IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Projects, with funding over \$1,000,000.

"Sara has been instrumental in providing a vehicle for learning outside of the classroom. Her efforts are a key component of my personal desire to create a community where education is deemed a paramount value," said Carson City Mayor Bob Crowell.



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

August 29, 2012

Nevada Library Association
Attn: Kimberly Clanton-Green, Chairwoman
2012 NLA Awards Committee

RE: Sara Jones, Carson City Library Director

Dear Ms. Clanton-Green,

It is with heartfelt honor that I write this letter supporting Sara Jones, Carson City Librarian, as a nominee for the Nevada Librarian of the Year.

During the time that Mrs. Jones has been with Carson City, she has managed to make significant and profound changes in library services for the community. Under her leadership, a staff has been assembled that is committed to the library and the community it serves. She has been able to organize and staff in a manner that creates greater access to the library while at the same time reducing expenses to help meet community budget goals. The vision of Mrs. Jones to see the role of the library in the digital world has been successful in increasing the number of patrons across all age groups. She has been instrumental in bringing brand new technology to the library in forms such as radio frequency identification for checking materials in and out, by installing a robotic branch library at the local Boys and Girls Club, and by the creation of a computer learning center available to all.

During this time of economic downturn, resources to assist local businesses were varied and spread across the city. Mrs. Jones was one of the motivators that spurred the concept of a city sponsored business resource center to consolidate the City's regulatory function (business license, planning and building and zoning permits) with a library business center into one location called the BRIC – the Business Resource Innovation Center. The business toolbox provided by the BRIC includes access to librarian services that can guide patrons to everything from business-focused books and materials, to business research databases, counseling, mentoring, seminars, networking, and self-study programs. The BRIC also provides access to public computers, a copy and fax center, and meeting spaces.

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Fax: (775) 887-2286 • e-mail: cceo@carson.org

Mrs. Jones has played a major role in the effort to revitalize the core of the City with the proposed relocation and expansion of the Carson City Library. The effort has been extremely difficult but Mrs. Jones maintained her beliefs that the project will be a major part in the continued vitality of the community. The project has received national recognition for the model that it is hoping to establish for the future of libraries and learning centers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence A. Werner', written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence A. Werner, P.E., P.L.S.
City Manager



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

August 29, 2012

Nevada Library Association
Attn: Kimberly Clanton-Green, Chairwoman
2012 NLA Awards Committee

RE: Sara Jones, Carson City Library Director

Dear Committee Members,

I write in support of the nomination of Sara Jones as Nevada Librarian of the Year.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Sara for many years, the last six of which in her capacity as Library Director for Carson City. I do not need to tell you that these are times of great challenges for libraries. What is perhaps not so well known is that these are also times of great opportunity for libraries. In my view, the role of libraries in a community is becoming more and more important on any number of fronts. I mention this because I also believe that successful libraries must be led by individuals who are thoughtful, innovative and have a broad view of how libraries can participate in the orderly development and sustainability of the community in which they deliver service.

While Carson City struggles to build a new library as the centerpiece of our community, Sara has been instrumental in expanding our existing library services in many ways. Let me explain just a few of those endeavors.

Through Sara's leadership, Carson City established its first Business Resource Innovation Center, affectionately known as the BRIC and designed to be a "one stop shop" for business seeking to expand or locate in our community. The BRIC is home to our building department, planning department and business licensing department. It also offers meeting space and high speed online computer services as well as hosting many useful databases. The BRIC is extensively used and is a critical component of Carson City's economic development efforts.

Through grant funding, Sara has also created a computer center for children and young adults at our existing library. This center offers a comfortable setting for parents and children alike to access high speed computers that they may not otherwise have available at home.

Robert L. Crowell, Mayor

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Also through grant funding, Sara created a robotic library on the premises of the Boys and Girls Club in Carson City. By use of a library card, members of the Boys and Girls Club can access books of their choice through a fun and engaging process.

Speaking of library cards, Sara was also instrumental in seeing that every student in Carson City was issued a library card.

For me, in addition to the role that our library plays in our economic development efforts is the role that libraries play in the education of our youth. Schools, like libraries, are also undergoing challenges and many believe that exposing children to learning possibilities outside of the classroom is critical in our quest to provide a first class education system. Sara has been instrumental in providing a vehicle for learning outside of the classroom. Her efforts are a key component of my personal desire to create a community where education is deemed a paramount value.

Finally, and perhaps most important from my vantage point, is the creation of a "sense of community," particularly in this day and age where electronic communication threatens to overshadow the synergies of interpersonal learning and dialogue. Sara Jones understands that importance and frequently offers programs that facilitate the development of just such a "sense of community."

Without reservation, I support Sara Jones as Nevada Librarian of the Year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Crowell", written in a cursive style.

Robert L. Crowell
Mayor



Carson City Library Board of Trustees

900 Roop Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
(775) 887-2244
www.carsoncitylibrary.org

August 29, 2012

Nevada Library Association
Kimberly Clanton-Green, Chairwoman
2012 NLA Awards Committee
www.nevadalibraries.org

Re: Letter of Nomination for Nevada Librarian of the Year, Mrs. Sara Jones

Dear Committee Members,

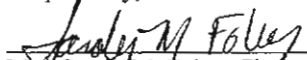
In our quest to maintain full library hours, accommodate a vast array of technology innovations, serve over 1,000 visitors a day and create the groundwork for a proposed state-of-the-art new library, one constant has guided the Carson City Library Board of Trustees. That constant is our library director and nominee for the prestigious Nevada Library Association's 2012 *Librarian of the Year*, Mrs. Sara Jones. With her vast experience, financial acumen and visionary thought processes, Sara has been able to take the "lemon" that is the local, state and national economy, and make "lemonade." Her work has expanded our existing single facility with two new branches: the BRIC (Business Resource Innovation Center) and a branch presence at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada with the first-in-the-nation BranchAnywhere system that enables patrons to check materials out and into a full service public library, powered by a robot. And at the main facility is a soon-to-open teen/computer center.

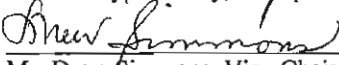
Sara has improved day-to-day library service and maximized literally every inch of our current, small facility. Through the use of technology and fiscally responsible operating practices, she has kept our library open and added branches when other facilities operate with shorter hours or even close completely. The RFID self-check-in/check-out system has enabled the staff to interact with patrons, and has made for a rapid return of books to the shelves. A partnership with the school district gives students an informal place to work, study and learn when the classrooms are unavailable. Online tutoring (BrainFuse) makes learning accessible from home.

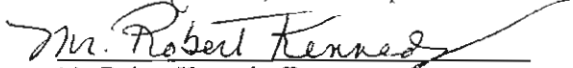
A professional, open relationship with the Board of Supervisors and city officials has created an atmosphere of respect and effectiveness. Never content to have a library that is merely "good enough," Sara has been instrumental in the development of and planning for a proposed 65,000 square foot downtown facility. Beginning with a thorough space-needs assessment and strategic plan; followed by extensive public vetting of several proposals and acquiring a beautiful, functional concept; and culminating with a ballot question for a new library/plaza downtown, Sara has shown us a dream and helped us keep that dream alive.

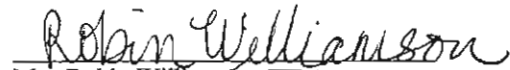
Sara has been lovingly called a *rock star* and a *wizard* by her colleagues and staff. When she attends, serves on committees or presents at local, state and national library conferences and events, people recognize her, seek her opinions and value her expertise. She has been able to leverage grants and innovations into bigger and better services for our patrons, and most recently, national publications (ALA's *American Libraries*) and news networks have featured our library. She is our *rock star* and our *wizard*. She could, and in our opinion, should be NLA's 2012 *Librarian of the Year*.

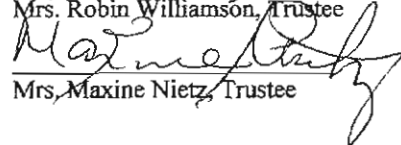
Respectfully,


Mrs. Sandy M. Foley, Chairperson


Ms. Drew Simmons, Vice-Chairperson


Mr. Robert Kennedy, Trustee


Mrs. Robin Williamson, Trustee


Mrs. Maxine Nietz, Trustee



Nevada Library Association

Kimberly Clanton-Green, Chairwoman

2012 NLA Awards Committee

Dear Ms. Clanton-Green,

I am writing to you with the full consent of my Board of Directors. We all agree that our Library Director, Sara Jones, would be an excellent choice for Nevada Library Director of the Year.

Sara took the job as the Director of our library in January of 2007. She has been working diligently ever since to update our little library and do the best she could to bring it into the 21st century.

I was on the Board of Trustees when we hired Sara. When Sara accepted our offer we gave her a directive to do what she could to help us get our new library. She has taken that directive seriously.

Sara has worked with our Friends of the Library group to keep us informed about what is going on in the library. She has asked for our help when in need of matching funds for grants or when additional funds were needed for books or equipment to help the library attain its goal of providing the best service and programming that it can provide.

Sara works with us to help facilitate our book sales and other fund-raisers. She attends all of our meetings and events whenever she possibly can.

Sara has transformed our library from a traditional book oriented library into a modern up to date library with her ability to leverage grants and to find the latest (best suited for our situation) technology. With the addition of the self check in/check out system and automated sorter we were able to add additional hours of operation when surrounding libraries were having to cut back.

Sara has been the driving force behind our motivated pursuit of getting a new and larger library. This year's election will be the culmination or defeat of that effort.

Sara tells our Friend's group over and over that we are an essential part of the library and one of the best Friends groups she has had to work with. We appreciate her praise and support and her efforts for the library in this community.

In our opinion you could not select a better person to be your Nevada Library Director of the year than Sara Jones, the Director of the Carson City Library!

Phyllis Patton, President

Friends of the Carson City Library



Friends of the Carson City Library
PO Box 1814
Carson City, NV 89702



August 30, 2012

Nevada Library Association
Kimberly Clanton-Green, Chairwoman
2012 NLA Awards Committee

Dear Ms. Clanton-Green,

It is with pleasure I write on behalf of the Carson City Library Foundation in support of Sara Jones' nomination for the prestigious 2012 Nevada Library Association *Librarian of the Year* award.

As Library Director of the Carson City Library for the past six years, Sara has built on the strength of the Library as a beloved institution, always a trusted place, by focusing on delivering additional access to technology and library-led educational programming at a time when gaps in access to both have never been greater.

In the past two years alone, with private matching funds procured under Sara's leadership, the Library has obtained federal and state grants amounting to over \$700,000 for technology and programming. Sara has guided our community's public library in becoming a sure bet in successfully competing for significant resources when opportunities present themselves.

To highlight one of many achievements, Sara led an innovative effort to bring the tools and information professionals of our Library to meet the needs of community businesses seeking a variety of information to enhance their operations. Unlike many business assistance programs, access simply requires a library card to gain a team of information professionals with strong networks of contacts in venture capital, various industries, economic development, competitor intelligence, market analysis, grant writing, marketing and mentoring. In fact this great work was featured in *American Libraries* July/August issue in a piece titled "How Public Libraries are a Boon to Small Business," by Bradley Collins, MLIS.

Sara works to deliver all this and more, and is helping Carson City rise to the challenge of working harder, smarter and with greater efficiency. In fact, as a result of more than three years of planning, pre-development efforts, vetting and outreach, the library will be in front of voters this November seeking approval for construction of a new 65,000 square foot Carson City Knowledge + Discovery Center Library and year-round plaza in the heart of Nevada's capital city, through a 1/4 of a cent sales tax increase. This bold vision can be reviewed at www.carsoncitykdc.org and conveys Sara's profound commitment to her profession and the citizens of our community. The Carson City Library Foundation supports Sara's nomination whole heartedly and without any reservations.

Best,

Severin A. Carlson, Chairman
Carson City Library Foundation



Carson City Library Foundation
108 E. Proctor Street
Carson City, NV 89701