

MEMO

Date: January 17, 2020

From: Melissa Ratcliff

To: Village Board

RE: Library Planning Committee regarding Free Little Libraries

At the December 4, 2019, Library Planning Committee, members indicated that they wanted to create a map of existing Free Little Libraries. There are Free Little Libraries at each of our village parks, except for Willow Run Park, which is scheduled to have a new Free Little Library installed soon by the Cottage Grove Optimists, and one at the Bank of Sun Prairie. We discussed that there are also Free Little Libraries throughout our community that were installed by residents.

After our Library Planning Committee in December, Cindi Kelm-Nelson asked if we could ask community members to send us the addresses that they know have a Free Little Library that are throughout our community. This request could be directed to the Village Board to approve language to put on the website and Facebook page asking for residents to provide addresses of additional Free Little Libraries in our community. Some sample language for the Village Facebook Page is:

“Is there a ‘Free Little Library’ near you? The Library Planning Committee is asking for your assistance in mapping out the locations around our village. Please comment below if you know of a location!”

This language could also be tweaked if it was being placed on the Village Website to have the residents call Village Hall, 608-839-4704, or the Parks and Rec Department with the address of the Free Little Library.

Once we have this information, a sheet could be produced with a map showing where each of the Free Little Libraries are and have the map available for residents at Village Hall and the Parks and Rec Department. It could maybe even be included in the current maps of Village parks and placed on the Village website. I have heard from some residents that they walk in our community, stopping at Free Little Libraries on their way and this would allow them to have a path to walk to the Free Little Libraries in their neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATIONS: At the 1/13/2020 Library Planning Committee, it was approved 4-0 to ask the Village Board to include language on the Village Website regarding contacting Village Hall or the Parks and Rec Department with the address of their Free Little Library and to post the following to Facebook for one month:

“Is there a ‘Free Little Library’ near you? The Library Planning Committee is asking for your assistance in mapping out the locations around our village. Please comment below if you know of a location!”