

Library Board

The Library Board was formed due to the need of a public library in the City of Red Wing. Need for a library was began in the 1880s. It was not until late in 1892 that the idea of a public library began to take shape. On January 6, 1893 the Library Board was created. The board was created by Mayor W. H. Putnam. The first library board consisted of nine members of the community. An organizational meeting of the library board was held on March 6, 1893. During the early years of the Library board the library collection was housed in many different locations.

The Library Board's first success at having a library was a reading room in the second floor of the Gladstone building in 1894. The Gladstone building was located on Bush street. The need for a large space was soon needed so the board moved the library to the second floor of the Boxrud building in 1898. The Boxrud building was located on Main street.

In 1903 land was donated by James Lawther on east avenue. Money was donated to the city by Andrew Carnegie. With both the land and the money donated the Carnegie-Lawther Library was constructed. The library was located on the corner of east avenue and west third street. The Carnegie-Lawther library served the Red Wing area for sixty-six years. In the 1960s it was decided that the current library no longer fit the needs of the community. In 1969 the construction on the current home of the Red Wing Public Library was finished. The current library is located at the former site of the Carnegie-Lawther Library.

Currently The Red Wing Public Library has a nine-member governing board of city residents appointed by the Mayor and City council, which makes policy relative to the library's

services, collection development and programming, use of the building, intellectual freedom issues and develops and monitors the budget.