



106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-4985

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 19, 2015  
**TO:** Oshkosh Public Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Jeff Gilderson-Duwe  
**SUBJECT:** John Hicks Trust Fund – Revised 2015 Allocation Request

I propose that the board revise its 2015 Hicks trust fund allocation (approved at the February 26, 2015 regular meeting) for conservation care of the Hiker and Carl Schurz monuments. In February, the board approved \$10,000 for these projects.

Since that time, I have received a proposal from Giorgio Gikas, President of Venus Bronze Works of Detroit, for conservation care of both monuments. The proposal is attached to this memo. Mr. Gikas's estimate for care of both monuments (if both are done at the same time) is \$12,500. However, this phrase in the proposal got my attention:

“Any stone/pedestal work that may or may not [be] needed is not in our scope of work. Our cost is strictly for the bronze objects.”

Remembering that retired Assistant Director Joan Mueller had mentioned something wrong with the pedestal of the Carl Schurz monument, I read the 1998 condition report that Venus Bronze Works had prepared (also attached). The report describes a separation between the bronze statue and the granite block pedestal as well as some shifting of the pedestal in the ground.

In light of Mr. Gikas's proposal and the as-yet-unknown costs of re-setting and caring for the granite pedestal of the Schurz monument, I ask that the library board allocate \$20,000 from the Hicks Fund for these projects.

I will need to meet with the Oshkosh Public Museum and the Parks Department to gain cooperation on these projects and to plan a timetable for the work. These meetings should prove to be a good opportunity to open a discussion of annual cleaning and long-term care for all of the statues and monuments under the city's jurisdiction. This is a timely opportunity, since planning for care of statues and monuments is an objective in the city's new strategic plan.

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