

Res. No. 168 - 19 - 20. By Alderperson Donohue. February 17, 2020.

A RESOLUTION authorizing the creation of a Poet Laureate program in the City of Sheboygan.

WHEREAS, poetry tells the history of human feeling and can sustain the emotional memory of a community; and

WHEREAS, poetry allows us to perceive our experience with greater richness and complexity; and

WHEREAS, poetry can carry us to the frontiers of linguistic imagination so that we can articulate our vision of the future; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of poetic traditions allows us to know more about our own culture and can serve as a passport to the cultures of others; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office desires to establish and support a Poet Laureate position and to develop policies and procedures for the position; and

WHEREAS, the Mead Public Library also desires to participate in establishing and supporting a Poet Laureate position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the honorary position of Poet Laureate is hereby created and acknowledged by the City of Sheboygan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Mayor or his/her designee and the Director of the Mead Public Library shall serve as the municipal liaisons to the Poet Laureate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That future Sheboygan Poet Laureates shall be proclaimed by the Mayor. This position is voluntary, and the person serving as Poet Laureate shall not be considered a City employee or a City official.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the attached document shall govern the initial selection and duties of the Poet Laureate. The Mayor and the Director of the Mead Public Library are authorized to make changes to the selection process and duties as they see fit, and subject to agreement by both parties.

## **Sheboygan Poet Laureate April 2020 – April 2023**

### **Duties**

Beyond the duties listed below, the job is left to the poet's individual imagination.

- 1) Write at least one poem per year for presentation and publication. The presentation will be at a civic event or meeting yet to be determined. Publication will be in the *Sheboygan Insider* and presented on the City's website.
- 2) We encourage the Poet Laureate to develop a special project such as an event, publication, or program which highlights poetry in a public way.
- 3) Participate in selecting the next Poet Laureate and guide the transition into the role.

### **Term of Service**

The Term of Service as Sheboygan Poet Laureate is for three years from April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2023.

### **Honoraria**

The Mead Public Library has committed \$300.00 for an honorarium. The appointed Poet Laureate may use these funds at her or his discretion.

### **Criteria and Selection Process**

#### 1) Residency

Preference is given to year-round Sheboygan area residents. City of Sheboygan residents are eligible to apply.

#### 2) Publication

Publication in a book or collection of poetry is preferred, but not required.

#### 3) Poetry Samples

Supply no fewer than six and no more than ten sample poems representative of your work.

#### 4) Resume

The resume should not exceed two pages.

#### 5) Proposed activities

An explanation of what the applicant would hope to accomplish as Poet Laureate, including potential ideas for a special project (up to two pages).

*Note: recommendation letters are not appropriate and will not be considered.*

Sheboygan Poet Laureate April 2020 – April 2023

Application Form

Application Deadline: April 30, 2020

Email submittal: [mayor.vandersteen@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:mayor.vandersteen@sheboyganwi.gov)  
OR mail submittal: Mayor Mike Vandersteen; 828 Center Avenue; Sheboygan, WI 53081

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your signature confirms to the Mead Public Library and the City of Sheboygan that the information included within this application is accurate and true.*