

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
January 16, 2018

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at the Central Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Mr. David Babich, Ms. Lee Gee, Dr. Justin Henry, Ms. Kellie Hogan, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Kerin Smith, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner, Director of Libraries; Cari Eagles-DeVous, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager; Tammy Penland, Support Services Manager; Julie Sherwood, Programming and Outreach Manager; and Larry Vos, Information Services Manager.

Guests Present: Lynn Behnke and family, Tom Borrego, Jim Byrum, and Darla DeSpain.

Staff Presentation

Director Cynthia Berner shared a trailer for the movie *The Public*, scheduled for release on January 31, 2018. Written and directed by Emilio Estevez, this film is set and largely shot in the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Ohio). The fictional story revolves around the relationship between library staff and customers who are mostly homeless, mentally ill, and marginalized. Many urban libraries anticipate that the film's release will increase questions from the community about local library services to homeless populations.

Call to Order

President Kellie Hogan called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

Director Berner introduced Lynn Behnke, who had asked to make a presentation to the board regarding her concerns about landscaping at the Alford branch.

Approval of the Agenda

Lamont Anderson moved (Winkler) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

Alford branch customer Lynn Behnke shared her concern about the plan approved by the Board in December to replace planting beds at the Alford branch with a concrete and aggregate treatment. When Ms. Behnke noticed the plants in the beds were failing to thrive, she volunteered to plant and clean the beds. At the time, it was explained that staff from the Library and Park departments were working to replace the original landscaping. For several months, she watched with interest while no changes occurred. She was recently informed of the

decision made to use concrete aggregate in the beds and wanted to encourage Board members to rethink this approach and look at other options such as adding a lockable outdoor faucet and use of xeriscaping in lieu of replacing the planting beds with hardscaping.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2017 were presented. Kevin McWhorter moved (Smith) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Kerin Smith moved to approve the preliminary revenue report and the 204 report of expenditures for December 2017 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Smith moved to approve the preliminary report of bills for December 2017 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$868,692.18; Grant Fund Bills of \$13,186.61; prior year Grant Fund bills of \$6,821.95; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$3,575.72 for a total of \$892,276.46. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Smith moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of the Gift and Memorials Account. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Smith moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Committee Chair Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee did not meet.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair David Babich reported that all furniture bids for the Advanced Learning Library had been approved by the City Council. The ADA walkthrough resulted in only a few recommendations. The owners of Reverie Coffee Roasters were continuing to work with the architect to finalize design of the coffee shop space.

With permission of the board, a consent agenda will be used in February and March to allow time for a more extended conversation about policy issues relating to library service in far west and southeast Wichita. Direction from these conversations will be used by staff to complete the first draft of a proposed master plan for branch libraries.

The wallpaper in the Westlink branch meeting rooms has been repaired.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Committee Chair Lamont Anderson reported letters were sent to members of the Sedgwick County legislative delegation reminding them of the importance of libraries, as well as pointing out services that might be of interest during the upcoming legislative session.

A list of Wichita legislators was circulated again, with Board members encouraged to note those whom they would be willing to contact about library issues during the current session.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation – Kevin McWhorter reported that the Library Foundation Board of Directors will hold a retreat on January 18 with the leadership staff of the Library to discuss the strategic goals of the Foundation following conclusion of the capital campaign.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum announced the January monthly meeting will feature a presentation on Jumpstarting Research for the New Year. The Genealogy 101 class starts on March 1 and the Genealogy 201 class will start sometime in June. September trips to Fort Wayne and St. Louis are being planned.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner informed the Board that a paper copy of the City's application form for appointment to a board or commission was included in packets as a reminder for those members eligible for reappointment. All appointments will expire March 31. Members continue to serve until replaced.

A tour of the Advanced Learning Library construction progress is being planned for board members. After some discussion about when to schedule the visit, President Hogan asked that an online poll be used to determine the most convenient date for the majority of board members.

Unfinished Business

Board members expressed appreciation to Mrs. Behnke for expressing concern about the landscaping issues at the Alford branch. Director Berner reported that the Park Department was contacted to defer work on the project as authorized in December until Ms. Behnke's concerns could be heard by the Board. After some discussion, Mr. Babich moved (Winkler) to rescind the decision made in December and to further research landscaping options at the Alford branch and continue conversations with the Park Department regarding alternatives to the concrete aggregate. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

Director Berner shared the 2018 Department Work Plan as proposed by staff. The plan continues to focus upon the goal areas of creating young readers, ensuring digital inclusion,

encouraging lifelong learning, supporting a healthy and sustainable community, and ensuring quality library service for Wichitans. Kevin McWhorter moved (Johnston) to endorse the 2018 Department Work Plan as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries