

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
January 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Mr. David Babich, Ms. Erinn Bock, Mr. Axel Chacon, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, Dr. Justin Henry, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Tadonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner, Director of Libraries; Kristi Dowell, Customer Services Manager; Cari Eagles-DeVos, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager; Tammy Penland, Support Services Manager; Julie Sherwood, Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager; Jeff Tate, Digital Services Manager; and Larry Vos, Information Services Manager.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

None

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

Craig Coffey expressed concern about referring to the American Library Association (ALA) as a guide in developing policy, stressing that the Library Board has autonomous decision-making power that should be exercised in the interest of local taxpayers. He reiterated that the ALA is attempting to recruit children to the LGBTQ agenda. (Attachment A provides a complete transcript of Mr. Coffey's remarks.)

Virginia Miller expressed concern about the child suicide rate and how the extensive use of psychoactive medications in combination with the social messaging of the entertainment and fashion industries contributes to the over-medication of children, which leads to suicide. Education about the LGBTQ community was supposed to lower suicide rates but has not.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 18, 2018 were presented. Tadonne Neal moved (Littlejohn) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

There was no committee report.

Operations Committee Report

There was no committee report.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

There was no committee report.

Public Affairs Committee Report

There was no committee report.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Matt Warner, new President of the Friends of the Library, was introduced. Goals have been set for the Friends Board for 2019 and include increasing awareness of Friends activities and increasing membership.

Library Foundation – No report.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum stated that WGS has 211 members. Genealogy 101 classes will be held April 4-25. Genealogy 201 classes begin May 16 and will continue through June 6.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner reported that the Library Board portion of the department website has been updated. All information from board packets will be available to the public as well as minutes of past meetings.

Questions have been raised regarding the impact of the federal government shutdown upon library operations. Because the library does not receive federal funding, there is no impact at this time.

Feedback from the December board meeting has been used to develop the first draft of a programming policy. As requested by the Board in December, this draft is currently under review by the City's Law Department. It will be returned to the Board for discussion after a draft has been approved as to form.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Erinn Bock moved (Douglas) to approve the preliminary revenue report and the preliminary 204 report of expenditures for December 2018 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Shannon Littlejohn moved (Anderson) to approve the preliminary report of bills for December 2018 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$790,003.44; Grant Fund Bills of \$47,162.73; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$75,236.54 for a total of \$912,402.71. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Erinn Bock moved (Neal) to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of the Gift and Memorials Account. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Randy Johnston moved (Anderson) to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President McWhorter advised the board that a conflict with a meeting of the branch library steering committee will occur again in February. To enable board members to attend both meetings, President McWhorter moved (Douglas) to change the time of the February board meeting to 10:30 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 19, 2019 at the rescheduled time of 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries

Attachment A: Craig Coffey's full statement

January 15, 2019

Wichita Public Library Board of Directors
711 W 2nd St.
Wichita, KS 67203

Dear Board Members:

Please enter this Statement into the meeting minutes in it's entirety.

The Board has quoted recommendations from the American Library Association in trying to validate their hosting of the Drag Queen Story Hour. This includes highlighting the ALA's "Library Bill of Rights". The ALA has used this document as a tool to push a far-left social engineering agenda for many years. Wichita's Public Library, funded through taxpayer monies, has also used this document to open the door to the LGBTQ community and their stated agenda of engineering our children toward political correctness, deviant behaviors, and the far-left platform.

I will remind this Board that NOTHING from the ALA is to be seen as the Holy Grail or authoritative to local libraries. The ALA, as a national organization, has NO local jurisdiction or authority toward the operation of our local library. You are an autonomous Body operating under the directives of the City Council and in line with the desires of the general public of the City of Wichita. Please don't hide behind the ALA's far-left ideology as a spring board validating programs detrimental to our City and our children.

Dylan Pontiff is typical of the outrageous behaviors behind the LGBTQ agenda. He is an admitted homosexual, a drag queen and a supporter of the Drag Queen Story Hour. He helped organize such a story hour at the Lafayette, LA Public Library last year. When brought before the Lafayette City-Parish Council on Sept 17th, 2018 he admitted "This is going to be the grooming of the next generation. We are trying to groom the next generation". The clear intent is to engineer our kids toward deviant sexual behaviors and naïve acceptance of the LGBTQ agenda.

Dr. Michelle Cretella, President of the American College of Pediatricians, states "Today's institutions that promote transition affirmation are pushing children to impersonate the opposite sex, sending many of them down the path of puberty blockers, sterilization, the removal of healthy body parts, and untold psychological damage. These harms constitute nothing less than institutionalized child abuse. We have actually called this child abuse because by feeding children and families these lies, children are having their normal psychological development interrupted".

I strongly urge this Board to take these facts into consideration as they determine the future course of programming, particularly as it pertains to children.

Topics aimed at sexual identity and social progressive agendas should not be introduced by any public library to children. Those of us labeled as hateful or intolerant because we disagree with

this agenda only serves to marginalize us and our legitimate concerns. This includes selective enforcement and clear violations of Library policies and procedures such as those exhibited in September 2018 during the Drag Queen Story Hour. Those examples are the very definition of intolerance and lack of inclusion.

Offers have been put on the table to come alongside the Board and assist with planning and implementation of future programming. As of today, these offers of teamwork and mutual cooperation have NOT been acknowledged or accepted.

Myself and other concerned citizens will continue to speak out and organize resistance toward this Board and its programming. The hornet's nest has been stirred and is beginning to buzz.

Respectfully,
Pastor Craig Coffey