

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
November 15, 2022.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Erinn Bock, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Rachel Enix, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m., a quorum being present.

Staff Presentation

Pamela Clarkson and Jennifer Durham presented on the 2022 Staff Inservice Day, which was themed “Many Faces: One Library.”

Approval of the Agenda

Erinn Bock moved (Hirsh) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 18, 2022 were presented. Shelby Petersen moved (Hirsh) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Director Nix presented the proposed closing dates for 2023, which include City of Wichita holiday observances as well as other closures specified in Library policy PER-005 or designated by the Board. Jonathan Winkler moved (Hirsh) to adopt the 2023 schedule as proposed by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Hirsh) to approve the August finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$917,842.19; Grant Fund Bills of \$31,997.27; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$427,230.68, for a total of \$1,377,070.14. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Hirsh) to approve the Library's subscription to LinkedIn Learning in the amount of \$19,000.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Erinn Bock moved (Winkler) to authorize staff to transfer the remaining balance of the 2021 SCKLS grant into the SCKLS Facilities Improvement Fund. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee discussed a subscription-based tool, currently being considered by Library leadership that promises to save hundreds of staff hours in evaluating the diversity of the materials collection.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Director Nix reported that work continues on the Westlink Branch project. Staff has learned that an automated material handler for the Westlink Branch would be significantly cheaper if it were equipped to work with RFID tags instead of the optically scanned Code 39 barcodes currently used for physical materials. More research is being done to determine whether the improved efficiency and reliability of RFID counterbalances the switching costs making it advantageous for the Library to transition to this technology.

Local artist John Waltner has requested the opportunity to create a custom art mobile for the Advanced Learning Library. A space has been identified on the main stairway that will also allow future artwork to be installed on the main stairwell wall.

Public Affairs Committee Report

No report

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library (FOL) – Amanda Shankle reported that the Friends of the Library is preparing for their next used book sale on December 3 at the Advanced Learning Library. Elections for FOL Board members are underway. The FOL has identified marketing the Advocate Program as its main priority going into 2023.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that approximately 6500 patron mailings have gone out to support end-of-year fundraising. A further 2000 letters will go out soon to individuals who are not Library patrons. The social media push will also roll out soon. The Foundation is also looking for two honorary chairs for the Capital Campaign. Ideally, one each

will come from the east and west sides of town, and both should have a history of giving to the Library that will encourage others to do so.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that the Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR) held a reception at the Advanced Learning Library to honor the work done to merge their collection with the Local History/Genealogy materials at the Library. This reception had been delayed a few years due to Covid-19. WGS and the KSDAR are very grateful to staff for all of the work done in making this transfer successful.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that checkouts continue to grow, with circulation increasing at a faster pace for electronic materials than for physical items. The City of Wichita will be transitioning to Windows 11, which will require the replacement of all computers, both public and staff. On December 5, the Library will move to a completely paper-free registration process for individuals getting a library card. This will eliminate the time-consuming process of scanning and storing the paper forms currently used.

Staff has been gathering use and customer statistics to create updated quantitative data regarding library use. This information will help in the 2023 Strategic Planning process, whose report staff will share with the Board when it is completed.

On Saturday, November 19, Storytime Village will hand out tablets to 5,000 pre-registered children; a donation by Shaquille O’Neal has made this giveaway possible. Library staff will be in attendance at this event to issue library cards to children receiving the tablets.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 20, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix