

## **WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
February 21, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Dr. Maaskelah Thomas, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Rachel Enix, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

### **Call to Order**

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., a quorum being present.

### **Staff Presentation**

Communications Specialist Sean Jones provided an update on the Library's current marketing strategy. The Library is for Everyone is a yearlong campaign designed to build inclusivity and disseminate the message that there is something for everyone at the Library. Creating a variety of inclusive ads for placement on social media and in various cultural newspapers across the city is just one example of ideas formed to promote this initiative.

The Library will be highlighted in a Viewpoint documentary on PBS, hosted by Dennis Quaid, which will focus on public libraries in different regions around the United States and show what modern libraries have to offer. This program will feature a 5-6 minute corporate profile on commercial television airings and be distributed through the internet.

Social media posts tell the Library's story and highlight the magic of public librarians. Each week, Division Managers collect and submit Raving Fans stories for publication on the Library's social media accounts. Staff have found that these posts receive a lot of positive interaction and comments.

The Library also strategically promotes programs and services with enticing messaging and imagery. The User Experience Team works to highlight large-scale programs and services throughout the year. Bilingual marketing and social media posts, monthly marketing highlights for staff use, and maintaining a yearly calendar of marketing goals and tasks are just a few of the approaches being used.

### **Introduction**

Kevin McWhorter introduced new Library Board member Ericka Sauer, who replaces Shannon Littlejohn as one of Mayor Whipple's two appointees.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Maaskelah Thomas moved (Petersen) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried**

**unanimously.**

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 17, 2023 were presented. WGS liaison Julie Crawford noted that the organization's donation to the Library was \$8,000, not \$800,000 as stated in the draft minutes. Chuck Schmidt moved (Boatman) to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

Director Nix presented the proposed 2024 Budget Program Options. In preparation for the upcoming annual budget planning cycle, the Leadership Team recommends three proposals for added funding that advance equity of access in library spaces, services, and collections. The Library continues to align its strategies with the Branch Master Plan, Technology Plan, and 2023 Workplan. Each program option enhances service to the public by strengthening service pillars to create a community of readers, ensure digital inclusion, provide equitable access to information, and deliver efficient and effective administration. Below is a summary of the program options in priority order:

1. Expansion of hours at Dr. Ronald W. Walters Branch to meet customer demand for weekend service.
2. Expansion of hours at Maya Angelou Northeast Branch to provide equitable service in a diverse community and build community connections.
3. Elimination of the interlibrary loan fee (\$3.00 per request) to ensure all customers have equal access to borrowing materials from other lending institutions, and enacting a \$1.00 fee for interlibrary loan materials left unborrowed after the request is successfully processed. (This latter fee aligns with the charge for holds not picked up.)

Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to endorse the proposed 2024 Budget Program Options as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee Report**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the final December 2022 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of

\$1,284,970.29; Grant Fund bills of \$155,677.65; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$3,134.96, for a total of \$1,443,782.90. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the January finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$594,160.02; Grant Fund bills of \$0.00; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$8,327.11, for a total of \$602,487.13. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to receive and file the July through December 2022 report of the Gift and Memorials Account as included in Board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve up to \$25,000.00 to fully fund the 2023-2024 Kanopy capped agreement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the subscription renewal to Overdrive Magazines in the amount of \$17,500.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Operations Committee Report**

No report.

### **Planning & Facilities Committee Report**

No report.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

No report.

### **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – Trent Wetta reported that the Friends will be holding a used book sale at the Advanced Learning Library on Saturday, February 25, with a preview for advocates the previous evening. The organization is now deciding which Library programs it will fund in 2023.

*Library Foundation* – Kristi Oberg reported the Robert Swanson fundraising council will be assisting with the \$8.3 million capital campaign for improvements across the library system. The Foundation will be presenting to the Goebel Family Star Lumber Foundation along with Director Nix in March. The Library Day of Giving will be April 14.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Julie Crawford reported the February monthly meeting was well attended; it featured a presentation by Lem Sheppard titled African-American Musicians in Kansas 1860-1920. Genealogy 101 classes will start in March and run through April.

## **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported that the Library will be receiving 30 kits of Narcan from Safe Streets. These kits will be distributed to branch locations with instructions for storage, training, and procedures for use if someone experiences an opioid overdose in Library facilities.

Library staff along with staff from Transit, Parks and Recreation, and IT will meet with Overdrive to discuss the possibility of smart benches that would be installed on city properties.

Proposed updates to the Capital Improvement Program for branch renovations include increased funding allocations for Alford and Rockwell. These would allow expansion of the children's area and addition of a drive-up window at Rockwell, as well as collaboration rooms and an office for District 4 community resource services at Alford. The budget hearing for the Library is in April.

On February 23, Margaret Sullivan Design Services will facilitate a day at the Westlink branch library for staff to explore and discuss needs and aspirations for expanding the branch. This officially kicks off the engagement portion of the design process, with a goal of ensuring staff can share the challenges and opportunities of working in a very busy district branch.

Plans for a mobile book bus service continue to move forward. The Library now awaits only the bus from Transit, which has been delayed because of supply chain constraints.

## **Announcements**

None

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix