

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
June 20, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. TaDonne Neal, and Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

Chuck Schmidt moved (Petersen) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Staff Presentation

Education and Engagement Manager Savannah Ball presented information on enhancements to the support the Library provides to families and young readers.

Summer badge books will be incorporated in the summer reading program to simplify, streamline, and enact a strategy of encouraging reading while school is not in session and helping students develop the habit of reading for pleasure. These books include stickers for various reading milestones and pointers for activities that help build early learning foundations.

The Library has recently joined the Family Place Libraries, an initiative that includes a network of over 500 libraries in 32 states and involves augmenting existing services and collections as well as extending the role of the children's librarian in work with parents and caregivers. It emphasizes the importance of the Library working with other family-serving agencies and professionals in designing services and programs that help reach diverse families within the community.

Family Place has several core components:

- Collections for children beginning at birth, including board and picture books, puzzles, puppets, blocks, and other open ended toys, along with a parents' collection of books, brochures, magazines, and DVDs
- Hands-on public space for families and children within the children's area that includes early learning materials as well as the parents' collection, thus creating a one-stop

- destination for parents and children
- The Parent-Child Workshop, a signature program of Family Place that incorporates all the core elements in one program

The Parent-Child Workshops are librarian-facilitated five-week series that encourage parents to get down on the floor and play with their children. They draw on services from community resource professionals who answer questions and talk together with parents as play progresses.

Interactive early childhood spaces will be established at the Advanced Learning Library and Alford branch during the fall of 2023, the Westlink branch in 2024, and all other branches as remodels occur.

An Anji Play outdoor space will be developed at the Westlink branch. These interactive areas provide opportunities for children to reflect on their play through play stories and for adults to help them do so through play sharing. The tactile items used are minimally-structured and open-ended by design: they include blocks, planks, ladders, etc. The goal is to create opportunities for extensive, uninterrupted, and unguided true play.

Abi Boatman arrived.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 13, 2023 were presented. Maaskelah Thomas moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Director Nix reported that Library leadership is in workshops with the City Manager and continues to develop options for filling the potential shortfalls in the 2025 budget.

New Business

None

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the May finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$858,877.44; Grant Fund Bills of \$20,767.29; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$21,773.37, for a total of \$901,418.10. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the McNaughton invoice in the amount of \$22,380.00 for an additional 1,200 credits worth of leased materials as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to renew the OCLC Cataloging and Metadata and WorldShare Interlibrary Loan annual subscription in the amount of

\$72,884.06 as recommended by staff. This invoice exceeded the \$10,000 threshold for Board approval as a consequence of OCLC’s recent switch from monthly to annual billing. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the subscription to Reference Solutions in the amount of \$12,500.00 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

There was not a quorum.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

There was not a quorum.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Erika Sauer reported that the committee discussed the book bus, story walks, and the Viewpoint series from PBS that will be released in either July or August. The committee asks that each Board member speak with five area organizations or businesses about installing a WPL library card window cling at their locations.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation - Director Nix reported on the status of the Foundation’s applications: Fidelity for funding for the electric bookmobile as well as charging stations at each branch (submitted); Cultural Arts grant (also submitted); and community service tax credit (completed). Rebranding and work is being done on the Foundation website. The Foundation continues to work on governance arrangements, including reaffirming board roles and recruiting new members, including a president.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No report

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that discussions are being held concerning the proposed 2024 program options, which include abolition of ILL fees, an increase in hours at Angelou, and provision of two new professional positions at Walters and Angelou. There will be more issues to work through in the upcoming months. The Library has purchased over 4500 historical Wichita photograph negatives from local photographer Arthur Kenyon. Additional ARPA funds are being distributed for upcoming capital improvement projects, which will increase the branch renovation budgets if approved by the City Council.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix