

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
December 19, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday December 19, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. TaDonne Neal and Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

Lauren Hirsh moved (Neal) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Staff Presentation

Director Nix and Communications Specialist Sean Jones presented information about a potential opportunity to use the café space at the Advanced Learning Library, which has lain vacant for the majority of 2023 owing to limited vendor interest in running a coffee shop out of it. Library leadership has had multiple conversations with staff and stakeholders to identify new ideas for better employing this space to benefit customers, a share of whom experience ongoing food insecurity. One possible model consists of the pay-as-you-go refrigerator the owner of a nearby coffee shop runs on behalf of food-insecure community members; this is reported to have worked well over the years. The Library proposes to partner with Wichita Workforce to develop a business plan and design program support for an operating concept in which a paid café manager would supervise trainee volunteers to run the café space on a nonprofit, pay-as-you-go basis. Director Nix requested Board members' views on feasibility, potential security concerns, realistic expectations, and more, on the understanding that further research and work plan development will be needed to move forward with this idea.

Dr. Thomas joined virtually.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 21, 2023 were presented. Donna Douglas moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Director Nix reported that Library leadership continues to work on the Enhanced Library Cards update to policy CIR-001 Customer Registration. It will be brought back to the board in January, when representatives of the United Way will attend to discuss in detail the potential benefits of this new card type.

New Business

None

Finance Committee Report

President McWhorter reported the committee lacked a quorum.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, President McWhorter moved (Hirsh) to approve the November finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$929,492.46; Grant Fund Bills of \$100,660.40; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$14,307.36, for a total of \$1,044,460.22. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, President McWhorter moved (Neal) to pre-approve the LinkedIn Learning 2024 invoice for \$19,600.00 so it can be paid once it arrives as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, President McWhorter moved (Sauer) to approve the invoice from Newsbank to renew its services for 2024 for \$36,275.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

TaDonne Neal reported that the committee discussed ideas for use of the café space at the Advanced Learning Library and the continued work on the policy for the enhanced library cards.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh reported the committee did not have a quorum but staff outlined plans for the groundbreaking for Westlink scheduled on January 4, 2024.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Ericka Sauer reported the committee discussed the recent publicity surrounding the new token locks on the family restrooms at the Advanced Learning Library, events being held during Black History Month, and possible ideas for expanding more into social media platforms like TikTok. The library card design contest will conclude on December 31, with notifications going out to winners in late January. A City Council monthly newsletter is being created in order to build a more informed relationship with City Council members.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Erin Shields reported that the Friends had a successful book sale in December with 385 attendees; it earned approximately \$2,100. Earlier this year, the Friends partnered with the WSU ShockerLab to create new promotional materials that will be launched in 2024. Recruitment for new board members continues.

Library Foundation - Jennifer Keller reported the Library Foundation has hired a new CEO, who will start work in February. The Foundation has received more state tax credits. Thank-you letters to donors are currently being mailed.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No report

Director of Libraries Report

The groundbreaking for the Westlink Branch remodel will be held at 10:45 am on January 4, 2023 at the branch location on Bekemeyer Road.

The RFID project continues to complete work faster than expected, with teams now out in the branches tagging collections.

A self-checkout machine has been installed at the Maya Angelou Branch.

Recruitment has begun for the new Library Resource Officer positions.

Operational hours at the Walters and Maya Angelou branches will be extended beginning in February.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix