

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
January 16, 2024.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Dr. Justin Henry and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Abi Boatman moved (Schmidt) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Staff Presentation

Director Nix provided the board with further information on the enhanced library card proposal presented at the December board meeting. Andrew Swanson from the City Manager's office and Matt Lowe from the United Way also provided insights into this project.

Lack of photo identification poses a problem for many residents in the Wichita community, especially those belonging to vulnerable populations. With many individuals experiencing challenges to obtaining photo ID, the enhanced library card would be a form of secondary identification that could be used to obtain resources and services needed. Many urban communities have begun offering municipal or community identification to provide easier access to multiple city-wide services. Developing alternative methods for individuals to obtain photo ID can help build trust within the community while removing barriers for at-risk individuals. Partnerships and collaborations are critical for this program to work.

Justin Henry and Taddonne Neal arrived on video.

Research was done into other libraries and municipalities across the nation to learn about the necessity and usefulness of some form of photo identification. The overwhelming consensus is that the need for it exists for many library customers. Benefits of the enhanced library card include recipients having access to library services, the ability to connect those without official identification to agencies who can help, and having a secondary identification that can assist in accessing resources such as housing, financial, and transit services. This card would be made

available only to adults and would include the library card number, full name, date of birth, address, expiration date, and a photo. Minimum requirements for the card would include proof of identity and verification of address, both of which are already required for an adult library card.

After a lengthy discussion concerning downside risks associated with the Library becoming a photo ID provider, the enhanced library card proposal was paused for additional research and conversation with the City Manager.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2023 were presented. Kevin McWhorter moved (Petersen) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

The motion to insert implementing language for the enhanced library card into policy CIR-001 Customer Registration was tabled until the February Board meeting.

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Winkler) to approve an invoice from Overdrive to renew its services for 2024 for up to \$17,500.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

City Departments prepare annual budget program options that are then considered for inclusion in the general obligation budget. In preparation for the upcoming 2025 budget planning cycle, Library leadership has assessed whether budget gaps exist that militate against achievement of the forecasted work ahead. On the basis of this evaluation, leadership proposes to develop a program option that addresses existing staffing inadequacies, plans for a higher level of use at improved facilities and provides support for community engagement and outreach. This looks like the following:

- Alford: add one full-time Library Assistant
- Evergreen: add one part-time Library Assistant
- Rockwell: add one full-time Community Services Librarian and one part-time Library Assistant
- Westlink: add one full-time Community Services Librarian and one part-time Library Assistant

The anticipated impact from these staffing additions includes increasing the number of active card holders in the community, increasing partnerships for enhanced service connections, increasing engagement with pre-readers and their families to assist with kindergarten readiness, providing access to technology training at all locations to support all ages, and increasing overall quality of life for residents.

Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to approve development of the 2025 Program Options. The motion **passed** by a vote of 9-1 with Mr. Randall Johnston opposed.

Finance Committee Report

No meeting

Operations Committee Report

No meeting

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh thanked Board members who were able to attend the successful groundbreaking for the renovations at the Westlink branch. The ceremony was well attended by members of the City Council and the wider community.

A firm has been selected to perform the renovations at the Rockwell, Angelou, and Alford branches.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Abi Boatman reported that winter programming was very successful at the library and now the push has started to promote the upcoming spring and summer programs. The winners of the library card design contest will be announced next month. Discussions have begun in regards to crafting a letter to Kansas legislators to advocate for library funding. The RFID conversion has been successful and well-received by staff and customers.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Amanda Shankle reported that the Friends of the Library continues to recruit board members. A President and Vice President have been added to the board, along with two new members. In February the organization will focus on the budget for 2024. It will also not hold a book sale that month, having concluded that holding sales once every two months places less strain on its volunteer base.

Library Foundation - Jennifer Keller reported that the end of year fundraising campaign has ended. The newly hired Foundation CEO will start on February 5 and will be named in a news release soon to be issued. The Foundation is currently working on some exciting rebranding opportunities in 2024.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Frederick Knoblauch reported that the first monthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday, January 20 and will feature a fun presentation, “Finding the Farm and its Records.”

Director of Libraries Report

Preparations are being made for the Digital Equity Summit happening at the Advanced Learning Library on March 1, 2024.

Interest has been shown in expanding access to student e-cards to WSU Tech students in IT and technical programs.

Leadership continues to work on the 2024 work plan and strategic agenda.

Presentations have been given to City Council members informing them about the newly launched bookmobile and other endeavors to increase library accessibility to the community. They asked good questions about Library services and requested a video to show the community how to access them. This video is in development.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 20, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix