

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
March 19, 2024.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday March 19, 2024 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. TaDonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Karyn Shorter.

### Call to Order

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

### Approval of the Agenda

Donna Douglas moved (Petersen) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Public Comment

No

### Staff Presentation

Education and Engagement Division Manager Savannah Ball provided an update on how the Library is expanding its reach in 2024.

The book bus launched in November 2023 with stops at 16 locations scheduled for the first 90 days. After this initial period, these stops were assessed for popularity and half were kept as they showed high patronage. New ones have now been added in more visible and visited areas of the community.

The Library has partnered with Rainbows United to provide book bundles to 100 families enrolled in the organization's program. Library staff have put together and provided 150 bundles to be delivered by Rainbows staff. Each contains 15-20 board books and can be checked out for a month.

New Storywalks™ have been installed at Fairmount and Harrison Park with more to be placed at Linwood Park, Buffalo Park, and Alford.

Due to branch renovations over the coming summer, many summer programs will be held at locations outside the Library.

The NEA Big Read yearly program has started and the Library is sponsoring a Wichita Urban Native History tour utilizing the PocketSights app, as well as a Big Read keynote presentation

with Tommy Orange, who wrote this year's book *There, There*.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 20, 2024 were presented. Robin Templin moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Unfinished Business**

Director Nix reported that a decision has been made not to proceed with the enhanced library card project. Instead, the City of Wichita will develop a municipal ID, with further work being undertaken to identify protocols for implementation.

### **New Business**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Templin) to approve the December 2023 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$996,645.81; Grant Fund Bills of \$91,021.41; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$19,522.74, for a total of \$1,107,189.96. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Templin) to approve the February 2024 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$872,344.83; Grant Fund Bills of \$4,303.60; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$11,770.74, for a total of \$888,419.17. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Boatman) to approve up to \$43,000.00 to fully fund the 2024-2025 Kanopy capped agreement as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Douglas) to approve paying the Newspapers.com invoice of \$22,113.00 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt provided information about the Gale Analytics renewal. Abi Boatman moved (Neal) to approve the invoice of \$14,924.12 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Templin) to approve the proposed 2024 State Grants-in-Aid budget as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Director Nix asked for volunteers from the Board to sit on the Nominating Committee for officers for the next term. TaDonne Neal, Donna Douglas, and Robin Templin undertook to serve, and now comprise the Nominating Committee.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Did not meet.

### **Operations Committee Report**

Did not meet.

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

Did not meet.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Did not meet.

### **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – Trent Wetta reported that the Friends of the Library continue to work to rebuild the board and membership. Over recent years, board participation and membership numbers have steadily declined. The organization seeks to develop solutions that will encourage people in the community to become members and to volunteer with the board.

*Library Foundation* – Kourtney Carson reported the Foundation is focusing on fundraising for the Master Plan campaign to fund branch renovations and is actively interviewing candidates for an open development associate position.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Fred Knoblauch reported that membership remains stable and attendance at events is healthy, with over 100 registered for the April program. The one area WGS struggles with is volunteers; the organization is now actively recruiting.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported that the Big Read kickoff was a success, with high attendance at the event. The book bus has been out in the community, including an appearance at the recent St. Patrick's Day parade. New Storywalks™ have been put up at Fairmount and Harrison Parks recently, with two more sets due to be installed during April at Linwood and Buffalo Parks.

Work continues on the Westlink remodel; weekly updates from Key Construction have flagged no major problems. The footing for the expansion has been poured and the project remains on schedule. The final architectural contract with Hutton Architects for the renovations at Alford, Angelou, and Rockwell branches is underway. Alford and Angelou will not close for the summer, but Rockwell will.

The Digital Services team is working with the City's IT Department to procure a more robust firewall. They are currently going through bids to leverage E-Rate funding to pay for the new hardware.

The Library's budget hearing for the City will be on April 1 and the Board was reminded of the program option that has been submitted that will expand staffing to complete the Branch Master Plan and to certify each branch as a Family Place Library.

Committee meetings have been cancelled until a new slate of board officers and committee members can be nominated and assigned.

**Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix