

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
May 21, 2024.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Rose Mary Frame, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Sarah Balderas and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

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

Introductions

New Board members Kurt Oswald and Sarah Balderas were introduced.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

Library patron Ben Blankley read a statement outlining concerns he had about an experience he recently had regarding the return of a damaged book. Mr. Blankley noted shortcomings with the process of returning damaged items, the way in which he was treated by staff, and the fee he was charged for the damage.

Staff Presentation

Director Nix discussed the strategic agenda, which provides a blueprint to prioritize the use of library resources in the future as well as identifies key initiatives and strategic drivers for implementation. The three drivers defined for the Library consist of advancing literacies to lift and empower residents, elevating awareness of library resources, and building partnerships to expand impact. They will assist staff in developing a customer-centered service approach as the Library moves forward.

Preliminary work on carrying out the strategic agenda will begin later in 2024, with assessments being conducted throughout library services.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 16, 2024 were presented. Robin Templin moved (Schmidt) to approve them as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Donna Douglas moved (Templin) to endorse the Strategic Agenda as presented by staff.
Motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to approve paying the Mid-America Library Alliance Courier Delivery invoice of \$11,020.00 as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Director Nix read the report of the Nominating Committee, which has recommended the following slate for the 2024-2025 year: President Lauren Hirsh; First Vice-President Jonathan Winkler; Second Vice-President Kurt Oswald; Secretary Jonathan Winkler; Treasurer Rose Mary Frame. Chuck Schmidt moved (Neal) to approve this slate of officers. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

No meeting

Operations Committee Report

No meeting

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

No meeting

Public Affairs Committee Report

No meeting

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Lea McCloud reported that the Friends Board has new members but still wishes to recruit several more. The April book sale was successful, with over 500 people attending. There will not be another this summer due to the Operations Manager being on maternity leave. The Friends continues to work on developing incentives for advocate membership in order to halt the regular decline in numbers.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson reported that the Library Day of Giving raised over \$9,500 with over sixty-three donations from various donors. The organization is currently beginning work on the Beech scholarship, which is awarded to a Library staff member studying for a master's degree in library science.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – no report

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that services at the library have been impacted by the City of Wichita computer network outage, which began on May 5 following discovery of a ransomware cyberattack. Currently there is no access to Polaris, the Library website, or the online catalog, and public WiFi is unstable at several library locations. The Library will continue to operate offline until the City's IT department determines it is again safe to use networked computer systems. Public computers are available, and Library staff can check out physical items to patrons by running Polaris in offline mode.

A meeting was recently held with Workforce Alliance and Legacy Works to discuss potential activation of the unused café space at the Advanced Learning Library. The tentative concept calls for a youth program to institute a training environment while also providing services to Library patrons. More conversations and planning work lie ahead.

The grant to expand WiFi coverage to all Library grounds and to install nine WiFi enabled charging benches is moving forward. As WPL is the first public library in Kansas to apply for this type of funding, the process is novel.

The Summer Reading Program officially launches on May 23 with this year's program not only including youth but adults as well. Experience passes have proven to be very popular with patrons and more are being purchased to meet the demand.

Construction at Westlink has been making progress. The design for Rockwell continues to develop; this will initiate a number of temporary adjustments to how staff and the public use the branch, which will continue to operate during construction. Director Nix showed a preliminary floor plan for the expansion, which includes multiple new study and collaboration spaces.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix