

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
March 18, 2025.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Ms. TaDonne Neal, Ms. Brandi Newry, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Michelle Garrett, Ms. Karyn Shorter, and Ms. Susie Ternes.

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Kurt Oswald moved (Templin) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Staff Presentation

Wichita Public Library Foundation CEO Kourtney Carson reported that Article Two of the Foundation's bylaws call for the Library Board to select additional directors to serve with the *ex officio* directors and an appointed director on the Foundation board as needed to ensure Library directors comprise approximately forty percent of that body's membership. These additional directors serve three-year terms. Ms. Carson provided a copy of the current Foundation organization chart for review.

The capital campaign for branch remodels has gone public and the Foundation is currently preparing for the Library Day of Giving on April 1.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 21, 2025 were presented. Kurt Oswald moved (Templin) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

On behalf of the Operations Committee, TaDonne Neal moved to affirm the Library's Internet Access and Acceptable Use Policy (REF-004) and to direct staff to report completion of the policy review to the State Library of Kansas. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Lauren Hirsh moved to approve up to \$37,000 to fully fund the 2025-2026 Kanopy capped agreement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

Director Nix reported that Library leadership has developed a program option designed to address existing community needs. Besides calling for augmented staffing, this plan maximizes investments in branch facilities and activates volunteers and strategic partnerships. Community-building remains a core function of library services, and steps taken over the last three years to improve engagement have been effective. The program option outlines ways in which the Library can assist staff throughout all City departments, as well as lead efforts to curate, display, and educate the community with open data. The proposal asks for the following:

- Two full-time Community Services Librarians (Rockwell and Westlink)
- Two full time Senior Library Assistants (Angelou and Walters)
- Three full-time Library Assistants (Alford, Angelou, and Walters)
- Four part-time Library Assistants (Angelou, Rockwell, Westlink, Literacy Division)
- One Community Building Division Manager (systemwide service support)
- Technology to support staff
- Added funding for collections (both physical and electronic)

The anticipated impact from these staffing additions include increases in the number of active cardholders in the community, partnerships for enhanced service connections, engagement with pre-readers and their families to assist with kindergarten readiness, and access to technology training throughout the county. It also includes an improvement in the overall quality of life of residents. Performance measurements will be updated to include targets for the 2026 fiscal cycle.

Jonathan Winkler moved (Neal) to endorse the 2026 program option. **Motion carried unanimously.**

TaDonne Neal moved (Oswald) to endorse the Wichita Public Library Foundation nominating committee's proposed slate of Library Directors. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Brandi Newry moved to approve the December 2024 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$1,184,522.83; Grant Fund bills of \$44,050.26; and Gift and Memorial Bills of \$7,698.44, for a total of \$1,236,271.53. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Robin Templin moved to approve the January 2025 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$963,033.69 and Grant Fund bills of \$160,872.00, for a total of \$1,123,905.69. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Brandi Newry moved to approve the February 2025 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$919,386.94; Grant Fund bills of 3,936.87; and Gift and Memorial Bills of \$399,247.43, for a total of \$1,322,571.24. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

TaDonne Neal reported that the committee discussed progress on commissioning the managed call center and received updates on branch remodels at Westlink, Angelou, and Rockwell.

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Tadonne Neal moved to approve policy updates as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Changes were made to the following policies:

- REF-009 Meeting Rooms
- CUS-006 Filming and Photography
- CUS-007 Service to deaf, Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- CUS-008 Library Teen Spaces
- EME-001 Disaster and Contingency
- EME-001 Library Service during Emergencies
- PER-001 Personnel Policy Statements
- COL-002.1 Selection Criteria

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh reported that the committee discussed the program option as well as branch remodels and openings. Angelou reopened successfully on March 17 and began receiving customers routed from Rockwell, which closed the same day. The District 5 Advisory Board will be meeting on Saturday, March 22 at Westlink to tour the new space before it reopens to the public the following Monday, March 24. Plans are being made for grand reopenings of Angelou on May 31 and of Westlink on May 10.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Kurt Oswald reported that the advocacy toolkit will be ready for review at the April board meeting. A 2025 calendar is being developed for monthly library promotions. Yard signs are being created to promote library services within the community. Susie Ternes outlined an opportunity for each board member to visit a branch library of his or her choice and take selfies in order to develop testimonials from board members for the public. Thoughts and photos from library visits can be emailed to Susie.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Lea McCloud reported that the Friends are designing two new T-shirts to sell at the bookstore and book sales. The first book sale of 2025 will take place on April 4-5. The annual volunteer luncheon is being held on April 25, and all board members are invited.

Michelle Garrett left.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson reminded members that the Library Day of Giving is April 1 and encouraged board members to donate.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Margaret Cramer reported that WGS now has 159 members. The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The organization is currently planning speakers and programs for 2026.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that Library staff are working in conjunction with the Kansas Leadership Center to develop Civic Action passports to encourage community engagement.

The Library is a co-applicant on a McArthur Grant to be used to help build trust with the local government as an anchor institute.

Announcements

Lauren Hirsh announced that the Trump administration has issued an executive order with the object of dismantling the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, which would be a heavy blow to libraries nationwide. She asked board members to think about ideas on how to mitigate difficulties likely to arise from this development.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 15, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix