

## **WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
June 17, 2025.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Susie Ternes, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Rose Mary Frame, Ms. Brandi Newry, and Ms. Karyn Shorter.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Staff Presentation**

David Garcia, Senior Communications Specialist, presented the finished Advocacy Guidebook that the Public Affairs Committee has compiled to assist with raising awareness. As a homework assignment, board members were asked to attend the District Advisory Board meetings in their respective districts and advocate for the library.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chuck Schmidt moved (Oswald) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 20, 2025 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Oswald) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

The Board discussed the FY 2026-2027 budget. President Hirsh provided the Board with an overview of budget constraints, safety concerns at library branches, and the strategic process the City of Wichita has developed to make robust fiscal decisions.

In February 2025, the Board endorsed a 2026 program option that identifies long-term funding investments needed at Wichita Public Library. This request called for broadening the scope of services provided by the public library to improve customer access to data and also for the addition of a Community Engagement service division. Both of these would contribute to implementation of the WPL Strategic Direction and elevate the library's performance to address the city's goals around literacies. The Board reached a consensus that the specific investments outlined in the program option remain relevant despite the city's budget

difficulties. Jonathan Winkler moved (Schmidt) to reaffirm the Board's commitment towards seeking \$1.5 million in additional funding for public library services. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee did not meet prior to the board meeting. Chuck Schmidt moved (Frame) to approve the May 2025 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$956,730.98; Grant Fund bills of \$22,449.20; and Gift bills of \$17,202.93, for a total of \$996,383.11. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chuck Schmidt moved (Ternes) to approve the OCLC/WorldShare Interlibrary Loan and CONTENTdm Subscription renewal in the amount of \$88,871.32 as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Operations Committee Report**

Jonathan Winkler reported that owing to lack of a quorum, the last meeting had been informational only. Committee members discussed the 2026-2027 budget, including options for service cuts to achieve a five-percent reduction in expenditures from the city general fund.

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

Lauren Hirsh reported that the committee discussed the 2026-2027 budget and program options.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Kurt Oswald reported that the advocacy toolkits are now available on the library's website and linked to from the Board of Directors section. As a living document, it will be updated as information changes. The committee discussed the 2026-2027 budget and program options. Homework for the Board this month includes posting yard signs and attending a DAB meeting.

### **Special Committee Reports**

Friends of the Library – Susan Byer reported that the next book sale is scheduled for July 11-12. The Friends will begin selling WPL yard signs from their bookstore beginning July 1.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson reported the Foundation is excited about its new logo and website design. It will be hosting a cocktail event on the terrace at the ALL on June 27. Library Giving Day across the country raised \$2.2 million.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Margaret Cramer reported that the next monthly WGS meeting is scheduled for June 28. The organization is also in the process of planning its annual conference, which it will hold on October 11 at the WSU Metroplex. It has so far received six pieces of equipment needed for the new memory lab.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported on ongoing branch remodels as well as the rainwater leaks experienced at Alford and Westlink branches. As these pre-existing conditions fall outside the scope of the respective renovation contracts, responsibility for their remediation rests with the city. Library staff is coordinating with Public Works to devise and implement fixes for these and other deferred maintenance issues.

The Summer Literacy League has had its first two sessions, and attendance at both Walters and Maya Angelou has exceeded both library and United Way expectations.

The Board viewed a poem read at the Maya Angelou grand reopening celebration entitled *Library Girl, Unsilenced*.

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix