

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
October 16, 2018.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Mr. David Babich, Ms. Donna Douglas, Dr. Justin Henry, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Tadonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Kerin Smith, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner, Director of Libraries; Kristi Dowell, Customer Services Manager; Cari Eagles-DeVos, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager; Jennifer Lane, Communications Specialist; Tammy Penland, Support Services Manager; Julie Sherwood, Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager; Jeff Tate, Digital Services Manager; and Larry Vos, Information Services Manager.

Also Present: Tom Borrego, Wichita Public Library Foundation; Jim Byrum, Wichita Genealogical Society; Darla DeSpain, Sign Language Interpreting, Inc.; and Jay Hinkel, City of Wichita Law Department.

Numerous members of the public were in attendance. The sign-in sheet is attached to these minutes (Attachment A).

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

Tadonne Neal moved (Babich) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

Five members of the public requested time to speak to the board in advance of the meeting.

Pastor Craig Coffey read a prepared statement from the National Association of Evangelical Pastors in opposition to the Say YAAAS to Reading program. The statement is attached to the minutes (Attachment B).

Virginia Miller read a prepared statement expressing her dislike for the Say YAAAS to Reading program. The statement is attached to the minutes (Attachment C).

Cindy Lenz expressed her concern and disappointment about the Say YAAAS to Reading program and the effects the program had on the innocence of the children in attendance. She called on the Board of Directors and the City Council to remove the Director of Libraries and to hire someone who would be respectful of and impartial to all groups that are represented in

Wichita.

Donna Lippoldt expressed her disappointment with Library staff and the Board for deciding to sponsor the Say YAAAS to Reading program. Ms. Lippoldt expressed concern over the library endorsing the indoctrination of children into an unpopular and unhealthy lifestyle.

Pastor Bobby Massey expressed his unhappiness with the decision to allow the Say YAAAS to Reading program to be held at the library. He believes the Library is no longer a safe place for children and that taxpayer dollars should not be used to endorse such an event.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 18, 2018 were presented. Lamont Anderson moved (Douglas) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

President McWhorter said the Finance Committee did not meet.

Kerin Smith moved (Littlejohn) to approve the revenue report and the 204 report of expenditures for September 2018 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Kerin Smith moved (Anderson) to approve the report of bills for September 2018 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$678,429.57; Grant Fund bills of \$23,069.96; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$2,391.70 for a total of \$703,891.23. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Chair Jonathan Winkler moved to approve revisions to policy CUS-001 Customer Code of Conduct, as included in the board packets. The updates reflect earlier direction from the Board about adding provisions to protect staff from low-level harassment by customers. Additional changes, particularly in relation to having food and drink in library areas, reflect the new business models in use at the Advanced Learning Library. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair David Babich reported that some furniture has yet to arrive at the Advanced Learning Library. Signage for the Advanced Learning Library has been approved by City Council. Landscaping at the Advanced Learning Library has not yet been accepted by the City.

Interior painting has been completed at the Maya Angelou branch library. The auction of furnishings from the Central library has ended. Approximately \$50,000 was generated through the sale of the surplus furnishings and equipment.

Scott Wadle, the senior planner who oversees bicycling issues for the City, visited the

Advanced Learning Library in response to the conversation about placement of the bike share rack. His recommended location is on the northeast side of the library but closer to the sidewalk and the other bike racks rather than immediately adjacent to the building.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Committee Chair Lamont Anderson stated that the committee did not meet.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation – No report.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum reported that membership has grown to 225 members. The September monthly meeting was well attended with 40 attendees. Over 140 people attended the annual conference.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner reported that multiple tours will be conducted at the Advanced Learning Library in the upcoming weeks. Board members and administrators from the Lincoln (Nebraska) City Libraries will visit on October 19 and staff from the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library on October 22. On October 24 -26 the Library will assist in hosting the Kansas Library Association and Mountain Plains Library Association Conference. In addition to offering a series of tours and rooms for some meetings, the Advanced Learning Library will host an after-hours reception on October 24 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA). This is particularly fitting as former Library Director Ford Rockwell was actively involved in leadership of MPLA for many years.

The Wichita Area Library Association will hold its legislative luncheon on November 19. Information about the time and place will follow. All board members are invited to attend.

The appeal to the Universal Services Administration Corporation in regards to e-rate refunds has been filed.

Shelby Petersen left the meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Mr. David Babich thanked the audience for attending the board meeting. He stated that the board does not always get to vote on programming in the library. He was against the Say YAAAS to Reading program and was disappointed staff moved forward with it. He does think the library should focus on inclusion and that Ms. Berner does an excellent job as Director. He

also referenced the September monthly report to note that the program was one of a multitude of various activities sponsored by the Library. He expressed support for programs that concentrate on inclusion rather than ones that are intended for special interest groups.

Mr. Lamont Anderson expressed his thanks to the members of the audience and acknowledged Director Berner and staff for their work towards diversity in programming. He noted that efforts to achieve equality can cause people to reach outside their comfort zones. While he believes there were some missed opportunities in planning the Say YAAAS to Reading program, he believes it is a step in the right direction to equality for all.

Ms. Tadonne Neal expressed that she is comfortable with the program as it was identified as an adult program. She affirmed the responsibility of the library to support parents in guiding the library use of their children. She noted that she believes it is appropriate for programs such as the Say YAAAS to Reading program to be open to the public, placing the responsibility on parents to determine if they want to bring their children rather than placing age restrictions on who will be allowed to attend.

Dr. Justin Henry left the meeting.

Ms. Donna Douglas stated that she spent 25 years as the Global Diversity Manager for Boeing and believes the library is a good place for dialogue. She offered her services to facilitate short dialogs with the community on issues of diversity and equity if this would be of interest to the Board of Directors.

Ms. Kerin Smith stated that she read the after-action review included in board packets and it mentioned that there were glitches in how the program was planned and executed. She felt that the program has been a good learning lesson for the Board and the staff.

Mr. Jonathan Winkler said that he had supported the decisions to hold the program and to market it to adults, believing both were consistent with the Library's role in partnering with parents regarding children's access to materials, programs and services.

President McWhorter stated that there is a place for all Wichita community members at the public library. A lot of conversation still needs to happen about programming in library spaces because things could have been done differently in this instance.

President McWhorter asked if there were members of the public who wished to address the board on this issue.

Nalini Fraser commented that minority groups need a voice and that people need to feel as if they belong.

Dan Rouser spoke in support of the efforts of the library to be inclusive in its programming. He offered compliments to the library staff for the work they do to support the community.

April Crothers expressed concern in her understanding that the board had not been fully informed about the plans for the program prior to supporting it. She expressed the opinion that the outcry about the program was due to the fact that the primary purpose of the event was to

be a recruitment process for children into an alternative lifestyle and that the community needs to step in to ensure that this is not allowed to happen again.

Donna Douglas left the meeting.

Donna Lippoldt indicated that she was intolerant of the fact that the library had sponsored a program that was an indoctrination of children. She reported that she had recorded the entire program and noted that she believed that board members would be equally concerned if they watched the recording. Attorney Jay Hinkel asked Ms. Lippoldt if she would be willing to share a copy of the recording so that it could be made available to members of the Board for their review. She indicated that she would try to do so.

Virginia Miller referenced the apparent role of GLSEN in planning the Say YAAAS to Reading program. She noted that people are protesting at the library because there isn't a way for them to protest GLSEN. The program has caused her to have a loss of trust with the library regarding its commitment to supporting children and families. She expressed interest in the idea of dialog as suggested by Donna Douglas.

Bruce Gass suggested that the program created a perception of danger for many in the community and that it is the responsibility of the Board and staff to ensure that the library is a place of safety.

Randall Johnston left the meeting.

Pastor Craig Coffey asked that the board publicly address the misrepresentation of the event in the media if this was actually the case. He also stated that he did not believe that the Board was addressing the lifestyle, theology and ideology pressures that had been pointed out by many of the speakers during the meeting.

President McWhorter returned the conversation to the Board. Director of Libraries Berner referred the board to a series of actions which the staff had identified as part of the after-action review of the program. She particularly inquired about the interest on the part of the Board regarding the possibility of a programming policy to help guide decisions about offerings. There was general consensus that this was something to consider.

Tadonne Neal left the meeting.

Announcements

Director Berner suggested that staff redact personal information from the Say YAAAS to Reading after-action review included in the board packets and post this document on the library website where it would be available for public review.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries

Attachment A Visitors Sign-Up Sheet

Meeting Visitors - Library Board of Directors
October 16, 2017

NAME	ADDRESS
VICKI DENTON	5140 N. SENESCA
Cathy Long	
Scott Karris	
Jim Underwood	5126 N. Seneca
Pastor Craig Coffey	142 S. 51st Pl. Wichita
Walter Cunningham	2310 W Graber, Wichita, KS 67217
Phil Wood	252 S. Fairview - CT Wichita
Tom Garrett	1101 Baring 67203
Jeanne Garrett	2646 N. Amidon 67204
Char Grisham	" " "
Lianne Grisham	8556 NW Locke Rd. Eldorado, KS. 67042
LeDonna Crothers	" " "
Virginia Miller	15515 E. 53 N., Benton KS 67017
Jamie Newman	19524 510 84th St. Burdon, KS 67020
Wynette Crothers	15000 SW 316th St, Halstead, KS 67056
Ty Miller Jr	19524 SW 84th Burdon KS 67020
Donna Leopold	4264 Samsville St. Wichita, KS 67220
Jeanne Anderson	1546 S Palmyra 67213
by Amy Dohm	1546 S Palmyra 67213
Amy Dohm	4140 N. Parkwood 67220
DAVE GARRI	4418 SW Crk Nevada
Bobby Messing	2000 S. Halstead, Wichita
DAN BARKER	1107 N. PINECREST
April Cronus	15515 E. 53rd N. Burdon 67017
Brandon Johnson	455 N. Main (1st Floor)
Natalie & Philip Fraser	2806 W. Driftwood Cir. Wichita, KS 67204

Attachment B Statement from Pastor Craig Coffey

October 16, 2018

Wichita Public Library Board
711 W 2nd St.
Wichita, KS 67203

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board today concerning the "Drag Queen Story Hour" held on Sept. 25th.

As a Christian pastor, a father, a grandfather, and a taxpayer I was both saddened and angered when I received a notice of this activity from the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas. I immediately joined with many others in lodging a protest with the Wichita City Council. I received a prompt response from Councilman Jeff Blubaugh. He expressed his own displeasure with the promotion of the event and the Library staff's willingness to invite drag queens to read to our children. I am aware the City Council and the Library has received many notifications of protest against the "Drag Queen Story Hour".

I know I speak on behalf of these concerned citizens and taxpayers as I lodge my own formal protest before this Board today. I would like to see a show of hands from the Board members approving of and endorsing the "Drag Queen Story Hour". I now ask who sponsored this event? How did the Wichita Eagle come into the picture? Is it customary for other participants in the Story Hour to get such media coverage?

You have stepped beyond the threshold of common decency, common sense, and common morality. You hid behind the assurances of "this story time is meant for adults" knowing full well there would be children attending as too many of them did attend. This is a parenting failure coupled with your failure. By hosting this story hour manned by drag queens, you are following the liberal policies of the American Library Association and the example of wayward libraries in other cities.

Your actions constitute child abuse. Drag queens are part of the adult entertainment industry. Children are much too young to be exposed to the LGBTQ agenda and their brand of immoral and unhealthy sexual practices. Children model what they see and hear. Perverse activities such as this used to be found only in back alleys, seedy porn houses, and dark closets. What used to be practiced in the dark in now being foisted onto the public in the daylight. We have moved from "Fun With Dick and Jane" to "Heather Has Two Mommies". We have moved from "Henry and Beezus" to "Worm Loves Worm". We have morphed from "Nancy Drew" to "I Am Jazz". The "Hardy Boys" have been replaced with "A Peacock Among Pigeons". This is shameful!

One of the stated goals of the LGBTQ agenda is to browbeat and indoctrinate the public while gaining access to our children through the government schools, the main stream media, public libraries, politics and public policy, and any other means to promote their perversity. The American Library Association and now the Wichita Public Library is party to the advancement of these immoral lifestyle choices. It is irresponsible behaviors like this that contribute to the hate and division we now see in this nation. We are indeed in a culture war.

We have reached a sad era of pandering to 2% of the population. This Board is allowing the 2% to bring pressure and force policy upon the 98%. Facts show that at least 40% of child molesters are found within the 2%. Upwards of 90% of children in same-sex homes meet the definitions of abuse. The 2% represent 55% of HIV cases in this nation. The 2% have 82% of syphilis cases. Only 20% of the 2% are STD free. I must ask in view of these facts is THIS the influence we want for our children?

Be advised you have poked the hornet's nest. I urge you to reconsider policies that permit this type of social engineering to be forced on our community and our children. Your failure to do so will result in a more organized and vocal response from families, churches, civic leaders, and other concerned parties as to the direction you have taken as a Board. I would hope the many negative responses you have already received would serve as a red flag. You have the authority to either grease or halt the slippery slope.

I don't feel it is fair to simply point out a problem without offering solutions. I would propose a Citizens Advisory Board to team up with the Library Board in researching and offering family-friendly and wholesome alternatives to the Drag Queen Story Hour. I will volunteer to sit on such a Board. My wife and I will volunteer to host a story hour featuring Bible stories and other kid-friendly materials. I am sure that other concerned citizens will step up and offer their help to create responsible and wholesome story times. If you do the right thing then we can work as a team.

Your future actions concerning this issue will be closely watched and monitored. The Library Board and the City Council is accountable for this fiasco and you are being held accountable. Accountability is one of the necessities of public service. You work for us. We don't work for you. Please remember that as you move forward.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak. Your time and attention is appreciated.

Pastor Craig Coffey

Attachment C Statement from Virginia Miller

My name is Virginia Miller; I was born in 1981 at Wesley hospital, and have lived my entire life in the Wichita area. I learned to read when I was four, and I grew up in Wichita Public Libraries. Linwood, Rockwell, my father worked at what was the Bank IV building near Central Branch. My great-grandparents lived a block and a half from Seneca. So many memories. Now married, I live west of Wichita, and am the storyteller at our small local library. My kids and I do return to WPL for the larger selection of books and materials here.

So, this whole event struck close to my heart; especially as it touches children. And it caused me to question, as I would like to question you: what is it that we are so passionate to defend, in children? What calls to us from childhood as valuable and precious? What separates children from adults?

Is it nothing more than a difference in age and size? Is it their dependence on us or their lack of knowledge and physical ability? No. None of these belong exclusively to childhood; we find these differences between adults also. The gift of childhood is their innocence. Their freedom from the cares and concerns of the adult world. A place of quiet security. Childhood does not end at a certain age or grade level or capability, it ends when the innocence ends. And to destroy their innocence, is to destroy their childhood.

As parents, this is the most fragile trust we can hold. And it is the place at which we most need the support and assistance of you, our community. Because if you refuse to help protect our children's innocence, we are left alone to protect them against you.

This struggle came home for me during my first trip as a mom to Great Plains Nature Center. I had wonderful memories of days exploring there. We unloaded and kids took off as I started the stroller down the paths. Pretty soon I heard cries of "Look, Mommy! Look what I found!" And my kids brought their treasures out of the woods. And my heart sank. I would not describe to you some of the things that they found in those bushes. Condom wrappings. And worse. I quietly placed them all in a trash can, and I walked on in silent tears. How was I going to create beautiful memories for my children? Could hand sanitizer protect them from this? Where could my children play and explore? In that moment, my community had not simply failed to protect my children. My community had reached out with careless arms to harm them. I could no longer trust the people I passed jogging along the paths.

The end of innocence. The end of trust. This is the world our children live in. A world in which they must always be on guard, constantly confronted with topics and images beyond what they are individually prepared to process. And here I come around to the "Say Yaaas to Reading" program.

The leaders of the LGBT community have made it clear the children are a major focus of their programs and information. In this they are not alone. Sexual experimentation is being preached to our children through nearly every media outlet available. The current catchphrase used to justify so many of these popular ideas is "it's all love". In the name of this "love", it's now fine for kids. But I will emphatically say that NOTHING that my children pulled out of those bushes was love. Casual sex is never love. Fifty Shades of Gray is not love. Gay or straight, these popular ideas are not things to expose our children to, but dangers to protect them from. They destroy innocence, and they destroy children.

In order to protect our children's physical safety, we as adults require they conform to our restrictions. To ensure their education, we require they perform to our standards. We teach them sharing, and responsibility, and justice- all by imposing on them our own limitations. This we must do! We are not removing their freedoms, but giving them the tools with which to preserve them. In protecting their innocence, however, the restrictions fall upon us. We, as adults, must guard and govern our own expressions and choices, for their benefit. Our freedom of expression should never trump the innocence of our children. If we refuse to do this- if we refuse to allow ourselves to be restricted in any way- we have lost any foundation for the boundaries we give to them. They will see us for the hypocrites that we are.

The LGBT community has adamantly refused any need to restrict their "right" to sexual expression. My protest is not against them alone. Networks, advertisers, clothing companies, and social media outlets for years have been loading their products with themes of greater maturity, marketed to younger ages. We are filling our children's lives with the pressures and expectations of adulthood just as surely as the factory work we required of them a century ago. I cannot stand silently as one more place of simple rest is lost to them. There is no privilege we as adults are lacking that would entitle us to destroy the innocence of even one child's mind. There is no sacrifice too great to make, to keep one small corner of the world free for childhood.