

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
October 15, 2019.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Ms. Donna Douglas, Dr. Justin Henry, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. TaDonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Presentation

Communications Specialist Sean Jones presented information about the upcoming consolidation of the City's leisure services calendars. Beginning in April 2020, the Library's activities will appear alongside those sponsored by City Arts and the Parks and Recreation Department in a common calendar. The intention is to share the variety of City-sponsored offerings with more members of the community.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

None

Approval of the Agenda

TaDonne Neal moved (Hirsh) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

Cherise Langenberg stated that she appreciates the libraries, as they serve all walks of life. The Linwood branch is a great treasure and part of an area that is vibrant for the community. Linwood furnishes a safe place for kids and for seniors, who enjoy the location, security, and programs offered by the library. The staff at Linwood go above and beyond the call of duty, according everyone the same high level of service. If the opening hours that had been cut several years ago were restored, Linwood would be able to compete with the bigger branches. She asked the Board to reconsider the proposed relocation and shared a petition of signatures accumulated to save Linwood.

Georgia Weeks stated that she has lived in the neighborhood surrounding Linwood for 22 years. There are numerous multicultural families in the area and community members quote Linwood as a reason why people should buy homes nearby. The library affords seniors and kids a place to enjoy and is one of the few positive things left to the community. As an anchor for its neighborhood, Linwood should remain in its present location.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 17, 2019 were presented. Shannon Littlejohn moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the revenue report and the 204 report of expenditures for September 2019 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the report of bills for September 2019 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$891,357.34; Grant Fund Bills of \$11,406.71; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$1,937.31 for a total of \$904,701.36. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Chair Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee met, with most discussion falling within two areas. First, staff are developing proposals to reduce barriers to access to information. Measures under consideration include eliminating hold and transfer fees, abolishing the requirement that a library card be in good standing to access public computers, and methods to help families with fees on children's accounts.

Second, it has been suggested that the order of business for board meetings be changed. The committee proposes that unfinished and new business be conducted prior to committee reports to allow as many board members as possible to be present for the business items of each meeting. This change would also bring board meetings into closer alignment with the structure of City Council meetings. Because the order of business is specified in the bylaws, this would require an amendment to that document. The committee also discussed options for reorganizing the public agenda to ensure that citizens have sufficient opportunity to communicate with the board on key issues while also managing meeting efficiency.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Randy Johnston reported that work on the Branch Master Plan continues, with staff members attending meetings with community partners to further the merger of the Evergreen branch library and the Neighborhood Resource Center. A meeting on a potential site for Linwood has been held.

The parking lot at Alford has been recently restriped. Three HVAC units at Angelou need to be replaced; the new ones have arrived and will be installed in a few weeks. At the Advanced Learning Library, the landscaping was damaged by an errant vehicle. Scott Rice has been on site to repair interior and patio furniture.

Public Affairs Committee Report

No report.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Matt Warner reported that the final used book sale of the year will be on November 9. The Friends are hoping to completely sell out of stock in order to start the new year clear of inventory.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported on her first 90 days with the Foundation. During this time she has worked on developing relationships with staff and board members, analyzing systems and processes, and creating a year-end fundraising drive. Her goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of 2019. She plans to do so by meeting with past donors one on one, engaging board members to reach out to their peers, and by direct mail solicitation.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum reported that approximately 98 people attended the WGS annual meeting. The next quarterly meeting will feature Jesse Chisholm and the Chisholm Trail.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner reported that the staff inservice day went very well. Training included a poverty simulation as well as a presentation by Ryan Dowd, author of *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness*. Approximately 120 staff members attended.

The Library has been contacted to see if there is interest in requesting a piece of sculpture to be added to the landscaping on the east side of the building. A photo of the piece was shared. It will be several months before restoration of the piece is complete, so the Planning & Facilities Committee can discuss the opportunity at its next meeting.

Digital Services Manager Jeff Tate attended the latest meeting of City department heads. During this meeting, City Manager Layton gave the entire Library Department a Raving Fans award. Mr. Layton stated that there were so many Raving Fans examples from throughout the library that he could not pick just one employee or operating unit, and decided to extend recognition to the library as a whole. This is the first time that an entire department has been so honored.

Director Berner thanked board member Lauren Hirsh for her assistance with the Big Read kickoff event. Ms. Hirsh noted that the event was well attended, with a standing-room-only audience. Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager Julie Sherwood added that over 550 people attended the recent Science Festival held in the conference center. There will be a second keynote event featuring Sarah Oktay, a chemical oceanographer and field researcher from the University of California Davis. A panel discussion will be held at Exploration Place and will feature local women scientists and engineers speaking about their experiences working in STEM fields.

Unfinished Business

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved to approve changes to ORG-001.1 City of Wichita Library Board of Directors Bylaws as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to direct staff to submit an agenda item to the Wichita City Council seeking authorization for the transfer of an estate gift to the Library Foundation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Jonathan Winkler provided a brief summary of the WPL Foundation's request for access to names from the library customer database. Lauren Hirsh asked about the privacy concerns implicit in releasing this information. Director Berner stated that the Foundation will create a mail merge letter that would then be given to staff who will submit that as well as the contact information to the mail printer. This process ensures that the Foundation only receives the names of individuals who make contributions or ask to be added to the Foundation mailing list. On behalf of the Operations Committee, Mr. Winkler moved to authorize staff to support the year-end solicitation of the Library Foundation by supplying the requested customer account information. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 19, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries