

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
January 21, 2020.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Ms. Erinn Bock, Mr. Axel Chacon, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, Dr. Justin Henry, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., a quorum being present.

Staff Presentation

Communications Specialist Sean Jones and Park & Recreation Department Superintendent of Recreation Reggie Davidson presented information about the printed Evolve shared events calendar, which features program information for several City of Wichita agencies including Park & Recreation, City Arts, and the Library. The calendar is created using information entered into RecTrac, an integrated management platform for recreational operations. This product includes a web-based calendar through which residents can register and pay for programs. The principal benefit for this joint calendar is that it allows the public to discover programs from multiple departments in one online location. The Library's website and class registrations will continue to use the current Evanced library software, which also handles reservations for collaboration rooms. Sean Jones will be responsible for transferring information from Evanced into RecTrac. Printed Evolve calendars will be available at all branch locations and in materials distribution racks in several places throughout the community.

Introductions

None

Approval of the Agenda

Shannon Littlejohn moved (Douglas) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 17, 2019 were presented. Erinn Bock moved (Schmidt) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Chair Jonathan Winkler moved to approve the proposed changes to CIR-007.1 Circulation of Materials as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.** This policy revision adds circulation parameters for e-audiobooks, which will become available through the same platform the Library uses for ebooks.

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Chair Winkler moved to approve the proposed changes to REF-002 General Equipment Availability for Customer Use as amended by the Operations Committee. The amendments include a clarification that the \$0.10 charge for computer printing is per page impression (not per leaf), as well as changes to the final sentence that include deletion of “print inappropriate items, demonstrate lack of knowledge with 3D printer” and addition of the words “failure to” before “keep the 3D printing area free of debris.” Shelby Petersen asked if, in the phrase “or other misuse of the 3D printer,” the word *other* should be deleted for improved clarity. Board members reached a consensus to retain the reference to misuse of the printer but to add clarity by striking “other.”

Chuck Schmidt made a substitute motion (Petersen) to delete “other” from the last sentence of the proposed policy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President McWhorter called for a vote on the policy changes as proposed by staff and subsequently amended by the Operations Committee and the Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Chair Winkler moved to approve the proposed changes to REF-003 Public Computing Services as included in board packets. These revisions remove the requirement for library customers to maintain their accounts in good standing (all fines and fees paid) to access wifi and computing facilities.

Randall Johnston indicated he is opposed to the changes, since they create a gateway for customers to argue they should not be required to pay outstanding charges in order to check out books. Lauren Hirsh stated that this issue forms part of a larger conversation about access. Shelby Petersen mentioned the possibility of an amnesty program. Jonathan Winkler noted past committee discussion had touched on amnesties, which are not favored by staff since they create a perverse incentive for customers to hoard obligations until they can be forgiven. Chuck Schmidt stated that the library loses nothing if people use the public computers with outstanding fines. It was also noted that people whose checkout privileges are suspended can still come to the library to read materials without borrowing them, and the proposed policy amendments would provide access to digital information in a similar manner. President McWhorter called for a vote to approve the policy as presented. The motion **passed** by a vote of 12-1 with Mr. Randall Johnston opposed.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Erinn Bock moved to approve the revenue report, 204 report of expenditures, and the preliminary report of bills for December 2019 in the

following amounts: General Fund bills of \$363,449.66; Grant Fund bills of \$28,511.11; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$225,873.54, for a total of \$617,834.31. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Bock moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of the Gift and Memorials Account as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Bock moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

None

Operations Committee Report

None

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Randall Johnston reported that Council Member Claycomb and Director Berner have met to discuss how best to move forward with efforts to finalize plans for remodeling of the Evergreen branch building.

Mr. Johnston, President McWhorter and City Property Management Director John Philbrick made a site visit to a space proposed for use as a relocated Linwood branch library. All agreed that the location is outstanding and that the terms proposed by the building owner are favorable. A draft of a proposed lease has been prepared by Mr. Philbrick and is currently being reviewed as to form by the Law Department. Meanwhile, staff continues conversations with the building owner and his designated architect about requirements for refurbishing the space for use as a library. No timeline for the relocation has been established, although all parties are anxious to proceed as quickly as possible.

The Committee has evaluated information regarding the Big Red sculpture and recommends that the Board express interest in having the art placed in the circle drive at the east entrance to the Advanced Learning Library.

Public Affairs Committee Report

None

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Matt Warner reported that in 2019 the Friends of the Library hosted three book sales, generating \$10,000 in revenue. Through a combination of grants, donations, and bookstore operations, almost \$40,000 was donated to the Library during the year. The Friends also hosted major author events, continued supporting programs like Big Read and

1000 Books before Kindergarten, and partnered with different organizations in Wichita to showcase the library to a new demographic.

In 2020, the Friends will focus on developing the board through membership in Wichita's Nonprofit Chamber of Service, expanding library program support, evaluating specific committee goals in a strategic planning session, and collaborating with library staff on events to promote library resources to new demographics.

Randall Johnston left the meeting.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg stated that the Foundation is exploring ways it can build a better infrastructure to support the Library. In the fourth quarter of 2019, the Foundation raised just under \$100,000 and received approximately \$500,000 in pledges for the Capital Campaign.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum reported that WGS is still working with staff to process the DAR library consolidation. Membership is at 199. The February monthly meeting will feature a presentation on the Kansas City Monarchs. The Genealogy 101 class will start March 7.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner assured Board members that the Library is in compliance with the new background screening policy for program presenters. One presenter cancelled a program due to his philosophical disagreement with the new policy, and another person scheduled to present a session in March has responded with negative comments when asked to provide a release to allow his screening. The website now has a space for programming information and for people to submit program proposals.

During the budget review, money was allocated for expansion of digital collections. The money will be used to start a downloadable audiobook collection. Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager, reported on start-up plans for the collection that will become available before the end of January.

Announcements

President McWhorter advised the Board that Director Berner had been honored by being named one of the *Wichita Business Journal's* 2019 Women Who Lead in Public Service.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries