

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
February 18, 2020.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Mr. Axel Chacon, Ms. Donna Douglas, 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

Branch Managers Savannah Ball (Rockwell), Robyn Belt (Alford), Anne Ethen (Evergreen), and Tracie Partridge (Westlink) provided updates on library programming and how it follows the service pillars and focus areas established in the branch plan.

Introductions

None

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 21, 2020 were presented. Lauren Hirsh moved (Douglas) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the final 2019 revenue report, 204 report of expenditures, and the report of bills in the following amounts: General

Fund operating bills of \$275,939.27 and Grant Fund Bills of \$609.44, for a total of \$275,548.71. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the revenue report, 204 report of expenditures, and the preliminary report of bills for January 2020 in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$309,204.36; Grant Fund bills of \$11,609.91; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$123,295.91, for a total of \$454,110.18. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

None

Operations Committee Report

None

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Randall Johnston reported that a proposed lease for the new Linwood branch location has been prepared by the City and submitted to the landlord. Occupancy could take place in the fourth quarter, barring any unforeseen issues. Mr. Johnston undertook to put together a brief summary of the ten-year lease for the Board to review prior to its submission to the City Council for approval in April.

Installation of the gutters at the Advanced Learning Library is currently being completed. Contractors are installing new glass doors in the Children's Pavilion.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Committee Chair Lamont Anderson reported that an advocacy alert has been issued in response to a proposed cut of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding in the draft budget the White House has submitted to Congress. This reduction, if enacted, would adversely affect pass-through funding to the Library. The Committee encourages board members to contact legislators to encourage continued funding for the agency and its services.

A letter to Mayor Brandon Whipple, inviting him to a board meeting, is being prepared.

The committee discussed a proposal by Axel Chacon to film highlights of board members at branches in their districts. The video series would highlight the work conducted at branch libraries, how board members are involved in volunteerism, and show the different services available at the Library.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Director Berner reported that the Friends of the Library Board will hold a strategic planning retreat on February 22. The next book sale will be in March. The Annual Volunteer Luncheon will be held April 24.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that fourth-quarter fundraising barely missed its \$100,000 goal at \$99,813 raised. The Foundation is preparing a Spring Fundraising Appeal to fund the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers program. The Big Read grant has been submitted and the Cultural Arts grant will be submitted in March.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Jim Byrum reported that membership is 201. The last monthly interest group had 20 attendees. The Kansas Monarchs presentation was well attended. The March 21 meeting will feature stories of James R. Mead, a Wichita founder, presented by Dr. Schuyler Jones. Genealogy 101 classes start March 7.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner encouraged board members to begin talks with Council members about reappointment to the board. All fourteen Board members are eligible to serve another term.

The Advanced Learning Library has received an honor award from the Association of General Contractors of Kansas.

An infographic representing 2019 library activity was distributed and discussed.

The Sedgwick County Legislative Delegation will hold a community meeting at the Advanced Learning Library on February 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Potential program options for upcoming budget negotiations were discussed. Options include operating cost updates, branch plan implementation, collection enhancements, measures to address equity issues connected to fees, LEAN projects, and miscellaneous options. Board members were asked to review the potential program options and forward their opinions to Director Berner.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries