

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
October 20, 2020.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Ms. Erinn Bock, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

### Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., a quorum being present.

### Staff Presentation

Youth Services Manager Erin Downey Howerton provided information regarding the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers program, which begins in November. The 2020 title is Eric Litwin's *Groovy Joe: Ice Cream & Dinosaurs*. This picture book story will appeal to young readers, with a focus on children between the ages of two and five. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's program will consist of an online platform that provides activities and resources for parents and children who participate. On November 15, the Library will premiere a *Sesame Street*-like video to encourage community participation. Patrons will have the options to check out the book physically or read it online at Scholastic Book Flix.

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 15, 2020 were presented. Erinn Bock moved (Hirsh) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Erinn Bock moved (Schmidt) to approve the

September 2020 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$712,320.14; COVID-19 bills of \$32,391.05; Grant Fund bills of \$70,607.02; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$624,302.75, for a total of \$1,439,620.96. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Bock moved (Hirsh) to approve the following invoices over \$10,000: a license renewal with the magazine subscription manager EBSCO in the amount of \$15,490.79 and a renewal for NewsBank in the amount of \$21,892. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Shannon Littlejohn joined.*

Lauren Hirsh informed Board members that as they also form the Naming Committee for the new District III Library, they should consider ways to use the naming process to promote community ownership and interest in the new name.

Interim Director Kristi Dowell outlined a proposed process for naming the new library. Community engagement in the process would kick off on October 21 when an online survey launches with the ability for members of the community to submit name suggestions. At their next meeting on November 17, board members would narrow the suggestions down to the top five. On November 18, these top five suggestions would be presented to the public to elicit assistance in narrowing the suggestions down to three. At the December board meeting, members would select one name to recommend to the City Council at one of its January meetings. The City Council has final say in the name of the new library.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report.

### **Operations Committee Report**

No report.

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

Chair Randall Johnston reported that the committee did not meet, but supplied updates on a few maintenance issues. At the Advanced Learning Library, Public Works and Utilities has been trying to trace the cause of a sewer smell in the pipes, and now believes that the wind has been blowing the odor back down an outside pipe that was missing a cap. It has now been capped in hopes of solving this problem.

Two replacement compressors on the north AC unit at the Advanced Learning Library have been installed to address deficiencies in humidity and temperature control that have been evident over the past year, primarily in the conference center and on the second floor.

The gas leak reported at Westlink has been fixed.

Quotes are being gathered for adding sidewalks at both the Alford branch and the Advanced

Learning Library in locations where customers have been cutting paths through grassy areas. The recommended sidewalk at the Advanced Learning Library runs from the north parking lot through the grass next to the weathering steel fence. At Alford, the planned sidewalk follows a stone path which staff and customers built between the parking lot and the front entry years ago. As the stones have now settled, this path poses a tripping hazard. If a sidewalk is not added, this hand paving will be removed and grass will be reinstated.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Chair Lamont Anderson reported that a piece of art by Anthony Joyner has been donated for the Maya Angelou branch.

### **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – None

*Library Foundation* – Kristi Oberg reported that Foundation staff continue to work off-site until the library completes its opening plans. Progress continues in updating constituent records. On November 6, the Foundation will mail letters to the Library cardholder acquisition of approximately 5,000 people, and on November 13, it will dispatch another mass mailing to over 1,500 prospects and donors. Staff have also implemented a robust plan for year-end fundraising using virtual means. Work is being done with the Foundation Board of Directors to do a dollar-for-dollar match of all donations received in response to year-end mailings.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Interim Director Dowell reported that all WGS in-person meetings have been cancelled and all WGS Board meetings are now virtual. Monthly education meetings are being held via Zoom with acceptable attendance. Membership is remaining relatively steady. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Genealogy Conference has been cancelled, with the next one being scheduled for October 9, 2021.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Interim Director Dowell reported that the library has submitted four Urban Libraries Council innovation entries for 2020. The Urban Libraries Council’s annual awards recognize and raise the visibility of cutting-edge programs, strategies, tools, techniques and ideas from their entire membership. In 2016 the library won a Top Innovator award in Customer Experience for its Raving Fans project within the circulation section. This year the library submitted entries for the following categories: Communicating the Library’s Value by providing e-cards for all, Customer Experience for shifting programs into a virtual format, Customer Experience for providing virtual resources during COVID-19, and Customer Experience for new access to materials. Winners will be announced later this fall.

Work on the Evergreen renovation and Linwood relocation is in progress. Finishes for the Evergreen branch have been reviewed and signage for the temporary Evergreen branch has been selected.

The City of Wichita’s mask ordinance expires at midnight, Wednesday, October 21. However, Wichita will continue to follow Sedgwick County’s Emergency Public Health Order, which

requires residents to continue to use masks in all public places--including all City of Wichita facilities--until December 9.

**Announcements**

President McWhorter announced that board member Dr. Justin Henry has been named the Kansas School Superintendent of the Year.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Dowell  
Interim Director of Libraries