

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
January 19, 2021.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Ms. Erinn Bock, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, 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.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., a quorum being present.

Staff Presentation

Jeff Tate, Digital Services Manager presented the 2021-2023 Technology Plan. Its goals include flexibility, usability, innovation, accessibility, diversity, and thinking nationally to benefit locally.

Jennifer Goheen arrived.

The planning process included reviewing past technology plans, assessing existing provision, reviewing national library trends, and conducting in-depth discussions among staff to identify opportunities to augment technology usage. Mr. Tate drafted the document, which was then reviewed by key staff and the management team before being sent to the Library Board.

Core focus areas of the technology plan include community engagement, staff service mobility, expanding mobile experiences and services, forming new technology partnerships, evaluating services, and identifying unsupported technology strategies. The board will be asked to endorse this plan under its new-business agenda.

TaDonne Neal arrived.

Shelby Petersen arrived.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 15, 2020 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Douglas) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The semi-annual accounting of the Gift & Memorial Fund was presented. Chuck Schmidt noted that the numbers on the last page were not added correctly. Lauren Hirsh moved (Winkler) to receive and file the July-December 2020 report of the Gift and Memorials Account as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President McWhorter moved (Winkler) to endorse the 2021-2023 Technology Plan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

No report.

Operations Committee Report

No report.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

No report.

Public Affairs Committee Report

No report.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Amanda Shankle reported that the Friends will vote on their yearly budget in February. The book sales committee will meet to plan another virtual book sale in early spring.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that 2020 accomplishments for the Foundation included cleaning up the donor database, raising \$183,917.00, and surpassing the acquisition goal of receiving gifts from 50 new donors with 68 for a total of \$4,368.00. Goals for 2021 include continuing to develop infrastructure for administrative and accounting functions, building relationships with major donors (including those who gave only during the capital campaign) to increase giving, and augmenting social media and digital interactions with

younger audiences.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that WGS continues to hold all meetings online. WGS volunteers are currently indexing Kansas cookbooks. Information about the Wichita Big Read has been added to the WGS website.

Director of Libraries Report

Interim Director Dowell reported that a correction has been made to the 2021 library holiday closure list. As Friday, December 31, 2021 is a City holiday, the library will be closed all day and will not simply be closing early, as was shown on the original list.

Movers are now transporting items from Linwood to the new Walters branch, a process that is expected to take a few days. On January 5, the City Council approved the official name of the new facility as the Dr. Ronald W. Walters Branch Library. The opening date is tentatively set for February 1, 2021, depending on whether all of the furniture arrives. A grand opening ceremony with a ribbon-cutting will be scheduled once the signage is installed, probably in late February or early March.

Work has begun on the children’s STEAM garden at the Advanced Learning Library. Equipment needed for this work has been deployed and construction is expected to finish by late March.

Announcements

President McWhorter conveyed words of farewell from Lamont Anderson, who has resigned from the Library Board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Dowell
Interim Director of Libraries