

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
February 16, 2021.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Erinn Bock, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, 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 12:03 p.m., a quorum being present.

### Approval of the Agenda

President McWhorter noted that under the fourth item on the agenda, the date should read January 19, 2021 instead of January 19, 2020. Chuck Schmidt moved (Douglas) to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 19, 2021 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Boatman) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Erinn Bock moved (Winkler) to approve the final 2020 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$891,910.51; Grant Fund bills of \$57,857.93; Library Donation bills of \$929.85; CIP Linwood/Walters bills of \$18,701.04; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$28,669.85, for a total of \$998,069.18. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Shannon Littlejohn moved (Winkler) to approve the January 2021 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$614,640.73; Grant Fund bills of \$15,107.38; CIP Linwood/Walters bills of \$634.51; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$1,761.21, for a total of \$632,143.83. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Interim Director Dowell presented two program options for the yearly budget process. The first eliminates fees for holds and transfers of materials for all customers. This change is designed to improve equity of access to information and to enable the library more effectively to fulfill its role in supporting a literate community. Due to the smallest branches being in the city's lower-income areas, customers of these locations must use holds and transfers to gain access to the same scope and depth of resources that are available on the shelf in more affluent neighborhoods. After much discussion, Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to accept this program option. The motion **passed** by a vote of 11-1 with Mr. Randall Johnston opposed.

The second program option moves internet charges into the general fund budget. This change is intended to ensure equity of access to information and enable the library to better fulfill its role in promoting digital inclusion. Public computing services are the library's second highest ranked activity and an untouchable component of its service delivery. Incorporating internet charges into the general fund secures the Library's ability to provide Wi-Fi, public computing, technology training, reference, and research services to the citizens of Wichita. TaDonne Neal moved (Winkler) to accept this program option. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President McWhorter informed board members that due to the resignation of Lamont Anderson, TaDonne Neal has become the First Vice President, leaving empty the post of Second Vice President. Erinn Bock has been nominated to fill this vacancy. President McWhorter moved (Boatman) to elect Ms. Bock as the Second Vice President. **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 budget was approved at their last board meeting. It includes funding for a number of library programs, including the Summer Reading Program and Candid Conversations. A used book sale will be held virtually on March 27.

*Library Foundation* – Kristi Oberg reported that the Foundation cut expenses to offset lower than expected fundraising revenue and nearly balanced the budget, ending 2020 with a deficit

of \$1,711 for the year. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$550,658 for Library programs and services. As the 2021 budget is finalized, the Foundation payout to the Library will increase by 25%. The Foundation has welcomed four new board members for 2021.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – WGS will begin moving to a new computer system named Wild Apricot with a launch date of April 1, 2021. February will feature a presentation on the Wichita Dockum Drug Store sit-in, while March will bring a talk on DNA clusters.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Interim Director Dowell reported that on February 1, 2021, curbside service started at the Walters branch, which is still waiting for all of its furniture to arrive. A grand opening ceremony will be held once libraries have reopened.

The Leadership Team has been discussing plans for moving forward from curbside service only. Staff prefers the covid-19 test positivity rate within the county to be 5% or lower for two weeks before the public is readmitted to library buildings. New covid-19 cases within the county have been falling and test positivity currently stands at 5.3%. These favorable trends have already prompted the county to increase the number of people allowed to gather indoors. They also bolster the case for further restoration of service at the library. President McWhorter encouraged board members to become a part of the reopening discussion with staff and leadership.

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjournment**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Dowell  
Interim Director of Libraries