

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Erinn Bock, Ms. Donna Douglas, 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 12:04 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 16, 2021 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Bock) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Bock) to approve the February 2021 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$656,521.08; Grant Fund bills of \$16,833.59; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$7,978.77, for a total of \$681,333.44. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Cindy Claycomb noted that the City Council has designated the Library Board of Directors as the Naming Advisory Committee for the remodeled Evergreen Community Center. Board member Jonathan Winkler is serving as lead for this committee. Claycomb stressed the importance of recognizing that the renovated facility will function as a resource specifically for the surrounding neighborhood and more generally for the larger community. The name thus should represent the cultural relevance of the community and be culturally inviting. If the facility is to be named after a person, then that individual should have a tie to the neighborhood; otherwise, there should be some cultural or neighborhood

representation.

Randall Johnston arrived.

Board members recommended that the process used for naming the Walters Branch should be adopted for the new center, with extra time allocated for soliciting possible names. It was deemed desirable to have the preferred name ready for the City Council by the beginning of September, meaning the Library Board would have to choose it at its August meeting.

Council Member Claycomb suggested using additional avenues, including Spanish-language outlets, to solicit suggestions from the public outside of social media. Many community members do not have access to social media and would be amenable to suggesting names using printed questionnaires located at local branches as well as the temporary Evergreen branch.

President McWhorter asked for candidates for a Nominating Committee to elect officers for the 2021-2022 year. Board members Jonathan Winkler, TaDonne Neal, and Shannon Littlejohn volunteered. Donna Douglas moved (Schmidt) to accept them as the Nominating Committee.

Motion passed 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 virtual book sale will be held March 19-25 with purchasers picking up their books on March 27. Bags will be sold for \$10 each. For the first time, this book sale will give individuals the ability to purchase a bag but donate it to a specific organization. Plans are being developed for reopening the used bookstore at the Advanced Learning Library.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg noted that the Library Foundation is working on fundraising for Library Giving Day on April 7. Cross-promotion is being done with the library and the Friends of the Library by distributing bookmarks to be given to patrons as well as posters to be displayed in branches. The Friends of the Library has donated \$2,000 to lead off the day, and the overall goal has been fixed at \$12,500. Funds raised will go to children's

literacy programs, like Kansas Reads to Preschoolers, and to purchase books for the 2022 Summer Reading Program.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that the February virtual meeting featured a presentation by Prisca Barnes, focused on the Dockum Drug Store Sit-In, and attracted approximately 100 viewers. The video has been made available on the WGS website. Since this meeting attained the maximum number of viewers allowed, increasing the cap on attendees is being considered for future meetings. A Genealogy 101 course will be offered on March 27 and April 10 via Zoom and is open to 15 people. The speaker for the March 20th meeting will be WGS President Margaret Kline, who will be continuing her DNA series and will discuss clusters. Membership stands at 168 individuals.

Director of Libraries Report

Interim Director Dowell reported that Asdale Construction LLC won the bid for the Evergreen remodel. The completion date has been fixed approximately for December 3, but the improvements may be finished early since the contractor is riding a tailwind.

There was a possible break-in at the west customer entrance at the Advanced Learning Library that required repairs to one panel. The sliding glass door for the TEC-Novation room has once again fallen off of its track but has been repaired. A new solution will be considered if the door continues to jump its track. A frosted film has been placed on glass in places throughout the library for privacy and to resolve safety concerns, the latter having arisen from several incidents of people walking into transparent walls they have failed to see.

Libraries reopened on March 8 to allow customers to browse collections. A large amount of furniture was removed to discourage gathering and to maintain social distancing. There has been a steady but not overwhelming stream of customers into the library. Compliance with the mask requirement has been good. Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager, reported that an increase in materials circulation has already been noticed now that customers are browsing collections again.

Wichita City Council members selected Jared Cerullo to fill the District 3 City Council seat at the March 16 Council meeting.

Announcements

President McWhorter stated he appreciated the hard work done by staff in order to reopen the library.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Dowell
Interim Director of Libraries