

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
November 16, 2021.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Erinn Bock, Ms. Donna Douglas, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Dr. Justin Henry, and Ms. Shannon Littlejohn.

Call to Order

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

Staff Presentation

Collection Development Manager Sarah Kittrell provided information on the Library of Things. The Library of Things is a venture into nontraditional materials so community members have an opportunity to access items they may not easily have access to. The Library has centered its inaugural Library of Things strategy to support STEM resources. Radon detectors were rolled out in June and there has not been lower than 60 holds since they launched. Telescopes have been an overwhelmingly popular item with a six-month wait list. Originally there were only 10 telescopes but now there are 15 available for check out. Internet hot-spots have also been a very popular item since July. By the end of November, Internet Bundles will be available for check-out and include a hot-spot as well as a Chromebook. The Library will be launching with 250 of these bundles available to be checked out by customers for one month. In early 2022, Learning Backpacks will be available for patrons and will be appropriate for younger ages. Future items for the Library of Things will include robots and anatomical models.

Dr. Justin Henry arrived.

Erinn Bock arrived.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 19, 2021 were presented. Donna Douglas moved (Petersen) 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 (Douglas) to approve the October 2021 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$915,854.37; Grant Fund Bills of \$22,326.36; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$53,864.89 for a total of \$992,045.62. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chuck Schmidt moved (Littlejohn) to approve the proposed changes to the Library Foundation Endowed Funds Spending Policy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Jonathan Winkler moved (Bock) to endorse the Foundation Nominating Committee Report for Library Directors. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to adopt the 2022 Holiday Schedule. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

No report.

Operations Committee Report

Chairman Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee did not have a quorum and instead had an information meeting.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

No report.

Public Affairs Committee Report

No report.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Amanda Shankle reported the most recent online used book sale went well selling 63 bags of books. Volunteers are currently working on clearing space in the storeroom for future book sales. Discussions are still ongoing to determine member benefits moving forward.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that the Foundation is busy with its end-of-year fundraising. There will be two mailings sent out over the next few months seeking donations. Emails also be sent as well as posts on social media platforms. The Foundation Board has received donations from all of its members so any donations will be equally matched.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that 11 new memberships were received after the annual conference in October. The November meeting will feature Gena Philibert-Ortega who will share why and how to include social history into genealogy stories. The WGS Board is reviewing the by-laws and job descriptions of board members, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Prothro reported that customer use and materials circulation has continued to improve post-pandemic. This month, the Library has featured marketing encouraging participation in Kansas Reads to Preschoolers and Chat Reference Service. On December 31, the offsite Ancestry access will be terminated. The IMLS Grant has been received, allowing the collection and digitization of people’s COVID-19 experiences and stories.

Conversations have been had with five City Council members who have all expressed support for the Library and what it brings to the community. Specific priorities mentioned include equity of service offerings, early learning support and helping to prevent summer slide, food stability and wellness supports, infrastructure improvements, ensuring branch service hours are aligned with community needs, and following through with the City’s commitments for the branch master plan.

The CIP Committee, which is comprised of Department Directors, will begin meeting in March to begin to plan a path forward with updates and new projects. Library staff is reviewing the Library’s CIP narratives and scorecards to identify any program changes in 2022. Specifically, staff will be looking at any learned ideas from COVID-19 experiences and service model learnings from the ALL. The Library can initiate projects in October 2022 to begin in 2023. Library staff will use the Design-Bid-Build model for each branch project and will work with the City’s on-call architects. In consultation with the Public Works Department, they will assist the Library with any RFPs for bids. They recommended that Library staff consider bundling Alford, Angelou, and Rockwell work into one bid so savings of time and funds may be experienced. Westlink will need to stay as a separate project due to the larger scope of work.

The Leadership Team is working on the landscape of work for 2022, which will be shared in December. The Director and staff will give a 2021 year-end review at the January board meeting.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro