

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
February 15, 2022.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Donna Douglas, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Abi Boatman, 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 12:04 p.m., a quorum being present.

Staff Presentation

Education and Engagement Manager Julie Sherwood provided information about this year's NEA Big Read program. The book featured this year is *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. The book is a series of interconnected vignettes published in 1984 about a year in the life of a young Mexican-American girl growing up in Chicago in the 1980s. The kickoff event was February 12 via Facebook Live and featured music, art, a reader's theater, and previews of upcoming events during the three-month-long program. Featured events for this year include a virtual screening of short films inspired by the book, and two keynote speaker events featuring Kansas Poet Laureate Huascar Medina and author Sarah Smarsh.

Deputy City Attorney Jay Hinkel asked for input from the board in regard to signage to be placed at the entrance/exit to the apartment complex parking lot on the south side of the Advanced Learning Library. The apartment complex has 86 parking spots in its ground lot that are open to the public for parking. However, apartment complex residents are not authorized to park in the Library parking lot. Mr. Hinkel informed the board of the wording to be used on the sign and asked for input from the board in regard to the wordage. Board members gave support to Mr. Hinkel for the signage and plans will move forward for sign placement.

Approval of the Agenda

TaDonne Neal moved (Douglas) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 18, 2022 were presented. Shelby Petersen noted wording needed to be corrected with the motion to approve the subscription to Kanopy to state there was an authorization included for a retroactive \$21,000.00 payment in December

2021. Shannon Littlejohn pointed out a spelling correction. Shannon Littlejohn moved (Petersen) to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Director Prothro presented the Wichita Public Library Statement on Every Customer's Right to Read for endorsement. The intention behind the statement is to establish a message that communicates Library policy in a way that can be shared with the public when needed.

Shelby Petersen expressed that the Public Affairs Committee should meet to discuss the statement before the board adopts the public statement.

Shannon Littlejohn agreed and suggested the statement be reviewed by the committee to ensure the statement is grammatically correct and aligns with policy.

Lauren Hirsh moved (Boatman) to endorse the Statement on Every Customer's Right to Read as presented by staff. **Motion failed unanimously.** The statement will be reviewed by the Public Affairs Committee then brought back to the Library Board for endorsement.

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Littlejohn) to approve the final December finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$1,020,720.68; Grant Fund Bills of \$83,704.20; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$162,796.60 for a total of \$1,267,221.48. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Petersen) to approve the January finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$702,515.29; Grant Fund Bills of \$0; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$7,918.41 for a total of \$710,433.70. **Motion carried unanimously.**

TaDonne Neal moved (Winkler) to approve the additional City of Wichita Observed Juneteenth Holiday on June 20, 2022. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Director Prothro presented the proposed 2023 Budget Program Options. In preparation for the annual budget planning, the Leadership Team developed seven possible funding programs that both advance and are in alignment with the strategic direction identified through the Branch Master Plan, Technology Plan, and 2022 Workplan. Each option has public service implications to strengthen service pillars to create a community of readers, ensure digital inclusion, provide equitable access to information, and deliver efficient and effective administrative activities. The seven program options are: the elimination of overdue fees; ensuring strong funding for core services by bringing public internet into the City budget; expanding operation hours at both the Dr. Ronald W. Walters and Maya Angelou Northeast branches to meet customer demand for weekend service, provide equitable service in diverse communities, and build community connections; increase the materials collection budget; create a Family Literacy Coordinator position to support engagement with low-literacy and ESL families; and fund years 2 and 3 of the Gale Analytics and Engage tool.

Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to endorse the proposed 2023 Budget Program Options 1-5 and 7, eliminating Option 6. The motion **failed** with a vote of 2-7 with Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. TaDonne Neal, and Ms. Shelby Petersen opposed.

Abi Boatman moved (Neal) to endorse the proposed 2023 Budget Program Options as presented by staff. The motion **passed** with a vote of 7-2 with Mr. Randall Johnston and Mr. Jonathan Winkler opposed.

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 half of the books put out for the Kansas Day book sale sold. The remaining books will be sold in the book store. The Friends are planning an in-person book sale on April 2.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that in 2021 the Foundation provided \$1.3 million to the Library for programs and services. Currently the Foundation has two grant requests pending with the Big Read and United Way of the Plains, and one future grant request with the Lattner Family Foundation.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that membership sits just short of 200 members currently. The February meeting will feature Beverly Olson Buller who will be discussing her book “A Real American Goes Hunting” about the 1924 Kansas Gubernatorial campaign when William Allen White chased the Ku Klux Klan out of Kansas. Work continues on improving and adding more items to the WGS website.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Prothro reported that the Evergreen Community Center and Library has opened with positive media attention and high numbers of visits, especially to the Tax Assistance Office. A grand opening is being planned for later this spring.

Lauren Hirsh has volunteered to assist with a departmental cultural assessment that will begin in late spring.

A 2021 Year in Review handout was distributed to board members. Highlights include an increase in Book-A-Librarian appointments, Wi-Fi connections, and physical visits to the library.

Work continues on the Capital Improvement Plan to update measures needed in design to accommodate lessons learned through the pandemic. One project will focus on renovations at the Westlink branch, while a second project will focus on work at the Alford, Maya Angelou Northeast, and Rockwell branches.

Staff will be participating in online training for how to better show empathy with the homeless population that may visit the library as well as how to deescalate situations.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 15, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro