

## **WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Staff Presentation**

City Management Fellow Carter Craig provided information on the Embracing Equity Through Branch Libraries project. The project focused on the challenges of increasing utilization of library services among minority community members, utilizing branch libraries located in areas with high concentrations of minorities and out of date data. The project used demographic reports and engagement and outreach opportunities.

The demographic report focused on the Alford, Angelou, and Walters branches. The Alford branch serves a large population including a large population of Hispanic/Latin individuals, and is a large regional destination library. The Angelou branch is a smaller facility and located in a majority-minority neighborhood that historically has a large African-American population. The Walters branch is a new, medium-sized facility located in a majority-minority neighborhood with a significant presence of East Asian cultural establishments.

The Project utilized outreach and engagement to get a better picture of the communities served by the Library. Using key informants, posters, and paper surveys, the themes from this engagement included determining barriers and desired services, as well as how the Library can be a community hub, and how people want to be informed about Library services.

The results came in three recommendations. Recommendation Group 1 Community Connections includes creating an in-person relaunch strategy, coordination with area schools, and targeting volunteer opportunities for youth. Recommendation Group 2 Communication includes placing print advertising in minority spaces, utilizing digital micro-networks, ensuring correct translation, and connecting Library services in other City of Wichita notices. Recommendation Group 3 Calibrating Services includes reassessing hours, ensuring minority representation among staff, ensuring equitable internet access and coordinate with Neighborhood Resource Centers, private rooms for interviews, and significant renovations to the Maya Angelou branch.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Kevin McWhorter asked to move the Announcements portion of the agenda to the third spot

and move everything down to accommodate an announcement. Kevin McWhorter moved (Petersen) to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Announcements**

Kristi Oberg announced that Cambry Gossett is leaving the Foundation. Traci Ball will be her replacement.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 15, 2022 were presented. Shelby Petersen requested the word “retroactive” be placed in the motion to approve a prior payment for Kanopy. The amended sentence should read “included for a retroactive \$21,000 payment in December 2021.” Shelby Petersen moved (Littlejohn) to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Unfinished Business**

Director Prothro presented the revised Wichita Public Library Statement on the Freedom to Read. The summary statement was reviewed and is being presented by the Public Affairs committee for Board approval to be issued as advocacy and awareness of Library policy PHI-005 in September 2022 or as determined by the Board.

On behalf of the Public Affairs Committee, Shelby Petersen moved to accept the Wichita Public Library Statement on the Freedom to Read as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **New Business**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Petersen) to approve the February finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$604,829.28; Grant Fund Bills of \$1,671.36; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$9,595.14 for a total of \$616,095.78. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin McWhorter asked for individuals to serve on the 2022 Library Board Nominating Committee. Jonathan Winkler, Shannon Littlejohn, and TaDonne Neal were selected.

Kevin McWhorter moved (Petersen) to appoint Jonathan Winkler, Shannon Littlejohn, and TaDonne Neal as the 2022 Library Board Nominating Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to approve proposed FY22 State Aid Spending Plan as proposed by staff. **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 informed Board members that the Friends have created an Advocate Brochure that was included in packets to introduce the revised member benefits. An in-person book sale is being held at the Advanced Learning Library on April 2. Friends members are currently working on a method to recognize volunteers this year.

*Library Foundation* – Kristi Oberg shared the brochure for Library Giving Day on April 6. Library Giving Day focuses on closing the gaps in children’s literacy and will be promoted on social media, at Wichita Thunder games, and through an interview on KAKE News April 3. Traci Ball has joined the Foundation.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Julie Crawford reported that the April monthly meeting will still be held virtually. Work is being done to schedule the rest of the year’s meetings in-person at the Library. WGS will be making a contribution to the Library of \$8,000.00 to support digitization of local history records.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Prothro reported that on April 5 there will be a proclamation by City Council celebrating National Library Week April 3-9.

The Evergreen branch will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday, April 9.

The Library will be conducting a supervisory retreat on April 8 to explore leadership within the Library system and to establish clarity around the type of workplace culture staff aim for in service.

Staff are preparing to begin accepting meeting room reservations in April. This will be the last major step in pandemic service recovery.

Director Prothro will be joining a City team that includes Police, Fire, Housing Services,

Public Works, and the Library to explore and coordinate solutions to homelessness issues and where the City has opportunities to improve circumstances.

One of the Library's short story dispensers has been relocated from the Hunter Health Clinic to Eisenhower airport.

Director Prothro gave a presentation to the Association of American University Women on March 13 that focused on the state of the Library. Attendees were especially interested in ways they can advocate for Library.

Public Works, Director Prothro, and Councilmember Bryan Frye will be meeting with the Building Committee at Ascension Lutheran on April 19 to discuss progress in plans for the Westlink expansion.

Library staff met with USD 259 staff to discuss two opportunities to support learners. The first opportunity is through the ASQ launch in branch locations later in the year. The other opportunity is an idea to issue student e-cards at scale. Administration staff are discussing logistics internally and hope to hear about positive pathways to make this a reality soon.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro