

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
June 21, 2022.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Dr. Maaskelah Thomas, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Dr. Justin Henry and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

Jamie Buster, Deputy City Clerk, swore in board members.

Staff Presentation

Director Prothro presented information on how the Library plans to reimagine early literacy services through family engagement strategies. This effort will help determine how the Library can strengthen its support for new parents, what access to the library will look like for those with the fewest means, and how the Library's assets can help fill gaps in the city to engage families. To assist in identifying robust goals, the Library has partnered with the Wichita Literacy Coalition. This organization aims to serve communities by strengthening the commitment of early childhood providers to understand and use statewide standards. It also seeks to close the achievement gap in Wichita by focusing support on families' and the community's greatest needs, and by using data and analysis to drive efforts, measure success, and communicate impact.

Currently, the Library's early literacy portfolio includes multiple story times, the Summer Reading and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten programs, Turn a Page, Engage a Mind, Check Up Check Out, Kansas Reads to Preschoolers, Storywalk, staff, volunteers, and collections.

Gaps have been identified in both the Wichita Literacy Coalition and the Library. For the latter, these include a staffing model that requires in-building operational support and provides little capacity for out-of-building efforts, training and professional development that has been limited, an inability for staff to determine who the Library is not serving, and unmet demand from parents for reading supports.

Further research and planning is needed to devise balanced provision for and make progress with early literacy services. This will entail shifting existing efforts as staff is onboarded, using demographic analysis to shape metrics, approaches, and priorities, remaining flexible in timelines to move as funding pathways open, laying groundwork for large-scale projects that require bandwidth, and determining programming capacity (itself dependent on volunteerism).

Dr. Henry left.

Approval of the Agenda

Shelby Petersen moved (Thomas) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 17, 2022 were presented. Donna Douglas moved (Schmidt) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Kevin McWhorter read the report of the Nominating Committee, which has recommended the following slate for the 2022-2023 year: President Kevin McWhorter; First Vice-President Lauren Hirsh; Second Vice-President Erinn Bock; Secretary Jonathan Winkler; Treasurer TaDonne Neal; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jaime Prothro. There were no additional nominations. Lauren Hirsh moved (Petersen) to approve the slate of officers. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Boatman) to approve the May finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$796,125.65; Grant Fund Bills of \$4337.01; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$6952.00 for a total of \$807,141.66. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

No report.

Operations Committee Report

No report.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

No report.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Chair Abi Boatman reported that the committee discussed signage for the Summer Reading

Program. Director Prothro reported that the committee also discussed strategies for communication that can be used to increase the percentage of the community with a Library card.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that work is being done with the Wind Surge baseball team to cross-promote activities. Some promotional ideas include a live podcast in the AV Studio and a children’s event with the baseball players. The Foundation’s annual audit is almost complete. Plans are being made to host another Lunch at the Library donor event. A grant has been received from the United Way, which will go towards early literacy activities.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that the July meeting will feature a presentation on utilizing maps in genealogy. Preparation is being made for the annual conference in October.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Prothro reported that the Evergreen Storywalk® was successfully installed and the ribbon cutting is being held June 22, 2022 at 10:15 am.

The Urban Libraries Council has a Business Value Calculator that quantifies the value of the services a library provides to its community. In 2021, the Library’s services were valued at \$14,784,972.26. The calculator takes into account resources invested to support training and education, research services, physical space, and technology and equipment.

A survey has been sent out to staff that will assist with work being done to determine the Library’s values. Staff members have been registered to complete on-line training by Ryan Dowd that addresses working with the homeless population in libraries.

Work is still being done with the City on the budget and staff from the City’s Finance Department will be available to answer board members’ questions at the July meeting.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro