

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
July 19, 2022.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, and Ms. Shannon Littlejohn.

Staff Presentation

Elizabeth Goltry, budget officer for the City of Wichita, presented information about the proposed 2023-2024 budget and 2023-2032 capital improvement program. Specific highlights include the following:

- With this budget cycle Library overdue fees will be eliminated, allocations for library materials increase, online content will expand, and the Family Literacy position is funded.
- The City will use \$6.5 million in federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to renovate four library branches.
- The mill levy rate remains unchanged at 7 mils for the 29th consecutive year.
- ARPA funding will continue to be used through 2024 to stabilize the budget and to fund operating initiatives and infrastructure projects.

The City Council is scheduled to vote on August 23 to adopt the budget and capital improvement program.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 21, 2022 were presented. Shelby Petersen moved (Littlejohn) 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 (Winkler) to approve the June finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$782,086.13; Grant Fund Bills of \$30,298.58; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$22,142.03, for a total of \$834,526.74. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin McWhorter moved (Winkler) to approve renewal of the Library's subscription to the AtoZ Database for the coming year in the amount of \$16,174.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Semi-Annual Report of the Gift and Memorials Account and the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel will be accepted and filed at the August meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Did not meet.

Operations Committee Report

Did not meet.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Director Prothro reported that Bruce Goodwin, from the City's Public Works Department, gave an update on the 2023-2032 capital improvement program. The allocation for the Westlink branch has increased from \$2.3 million in the 2017 plan to \$4.5 million in the current draft to account for inflation, the inclusion of a drive-up window and automated materials handler, and design changes arising from lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds for the Alford, Angelou, and Rockwell branches have also increased from the 2017 figures. Plans call for the City to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to initiate the design-bid-build process for Westlink as soon as the City Council adopts the budget and CIP. The estimated construction timeline is nine months to a year. Options were discussed for temporary service out of an alternate location.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Did not meet.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Amanda Shankle reported that the Friends plans a retreat for its board members at the end of August to learn tools for becoming a more engaged and active board. A book sale is being planned for September 10, at which new bags designed by the Friends will make their debut.

Library Foundation – Traci Ball reported that the Foundation has raised over \$136,000.00 so far this year, with \$108,000.00 directly going to the Library. The planned podcast with a member of the Wichita Wind Surge will have to be done at the end of the season due to scheduling conflicts. Preparation has begun on an application for a \$25,000.00 grant from Every to fund Little Free Libraries for the community. The donor event Lunch at the Library is scheduled for October 13 at the Advanced Learning Library.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Julie Crawford reported that the August meeting will feature a presentation on mining in southeastern Kansas during the 1800s-1900s. WGS members are preparing for the annual conference in October.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Prothro introduced new board member Rachel Enix, who will be replacing Jennifer Goheen and represents District VI.

On a daily basis, customer comment cards have been received from customers complimenting staff and library services. Many have praised the Library’s early literacy efforts and the new Library of Things offerings.

On August 20, the Library will host a Local Author Day for the first time since before the pandemic. Registration is currently open and staff hopes for as many as 100 local authors to register.

The Library will be a partner organization again this year for the Tallgrass Film Festival and will have an after-hours event in the autumn.

Five staff positions, previously frozen by the City during the pandemic, have been released and can now be filled.

The past few weeks have presented a few challenging experiences handling customers who appeared to have mental health or anger management issues. Situational awareness has been reviewed with staff in order to promote safety.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 16, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro