

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
August 16, 2022.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Dr. Justin Henry, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Dr. Maaskelah Thomas, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

### Call to Order

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

### Staff Presentation

Digital Services Manager Jeff Tate provided information on public technology enhancements made within the Library. New items available in the AV studio at the Advanced Learning Library include virtual reality headsets, a drawing tablet, mixers and other editing tools, and a CriCut maker. Two iMacs have been added to the Digital Pavilion with three more to be added in 2023.

On October 8, 2022, the Advanced Learning Library will host a Day of Technology in the Conference Center, Tec-Novation Room, and other areas around the building to demonstrate the technology available at the Library. There will be 3D printing demonstrations, virtual reality goggles hooked up to the projectors, various Library of Things items out to use, a make-and-take craft project using the CriCut, and more. Partners in this event so far include MakeICT, Kansas Astronomical Observers, and WSU.

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on July 19, 2022 were presented. Shannon Littlejohn moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Unfinished Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Henry) to receive and file the

Semi-Annual Report of the Gift and Memorials Account as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Lauren Hirsh moved (Boatman) to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **New Business**

None

### **Finance Committee Report**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Henry) to approve the July finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$780,493.71; Grant Fund bills of \$66,327.43; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$24,004.79, for a total of \$870,825.93. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to approve the Ebsco subscription renewal at any invoiced amount up to \$31,000. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **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 final planning is being done for the Friends retreat on August 27. The organization continues to work on recruiting new board members and volunteers as well as to prepare for the September 10 used book sale.

*Library Foundation* – Kristi Oberg reported that the Foundation’s focus remains on family engagement. Everygy has recently made a grant to fund 26 Little Free Libraries at various locations spread throughout District 3 of the city; these will provide access to diverse books and help bridge families to the Dr. Ronald W. Walters branch for more resources. The Capital Campaign continues to work on launching a book delivery vehicle to allow the Library to strengthen out-of-building services.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Julie Crawford reported that volunteers are working to digitize photos, documents, and maps for the website. In October, the Kansas Society of the

Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR) will hold a long-planned event at the Advanced Learning Library to celebrate the transfer of their collections into the Library. This gathering has been postponed since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Director of Libraries Report**

Director Prothro reported that the Education and Engagement Manager position vacated through Julie Sherwood’s retirement has been filled by former Rockwell Branch Manager Savannah Ball.

On Saturday, August 20, the Advanced Learning Library will host its first Local Author Day since the arrival of COVID-19.

The increase for the Library collections allocated in the 2023 budget has come early, with \$255,000.00 now being available for disbursement.

In anticipation of the City Council voting to adopt the proposed budget for 2023-2024 on Tuesday, August 23, the Library has established a plan for phasing out overdue fines. On the day of the vote, the Library will announce that it will no longer assess overdue fines on customer accounts. On August 24, customer accounts that have previously accrued such fines will be updated to eliminate the charges. During the week of September 26 through October 2, the Library will host an amnesty week to allow patrons to return any library materials and thereby restore their accounts to good standing. This will be the first event of its kind in Library history. These changes add up to a big step towards eliminating financial barriers that prevent residents from using library services.

In-service training for Library staff will be held on October 10 and will focus on how the library serves its diverse city.

On October 28 the State Librarian, Ray Walling, will visit the Advanced Learning Library.

Work is underway to negotiate a short-term lease on a temporary location for the Westlink branch, as part of the preparations for the building expansion project.

**Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 20, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Prothro