

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
December 18, 2018.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Mr. David Babich, Ms. Erinn Bock, Mr. Axel Chacon, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, Dr. Justin Henry, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Tadonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Kerin Smith, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner, Director of Libraries; Kristi Dowell, Customer Services Manager; Cari Eagles-DeVous, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Kittrell, Collection Development Manager; Tammy Penland, Support Services Manager; Julie Sherwood, Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager; Jeff Tate, Digital Services Manager; and Larry Vos, Information Services Manager.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

Director Berner introduced Axel Chacon, who has been appointed to the board by Mayor Jeff Longwell.

Approval of the Agenda

Kevin McWhorter moved (Douglas) that the board add a new business item to the agenda regarding a possible change in time for the January 15, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

Donna Lippoldt expressed her continued concern about the children who attended the Say YAAAS to Reading program. She expressed the wish that the Library Board had done due diligence on drag queens, and summarized academic research that appears to support the contention that contact with genderfluid lifestyles is harmful to children. She also questioned whether it is within the mission statement of the Library to create a welcoming environment to all members of the community. The program appeared to have been an attempt to advance the transgender revolution and had a series of missteps in its implementation.

Dan Rouser noted that there are some things that are so important that they are supported by everyone for everyone. He suggested that libraries belonged in this group along with emergency services, schools and the judicial system. He encouraged the board to reject the censorship of ideas by limiting the type of programming that may be offered by the library. (Attachment A provides a complete transcript of Mr. Rouser's remarks.)

Craig Coffey expressed concern about the planning and implementation of the Say YAAAS to Reading program as outlined in the program After Action Review. He questioned the new use of the public agenda request form in order to secure a space during the public comment period of Library Board meetings. He suggested that the program is part of a larger social engineering project of the American Library Association to recruit children to the LGBTQ agenda and noted that there was a disparity of treatment and selective enforcement of policies between LGBTQ activists inside the building and protesters outside. (Attachment B provides a complete transcript of Pastor Coffey's remarks.)

Scott Davis recommended using the Bible as a guide when developing programming. Sexual immorality is a sin, as he has observed during his time in prison ministry. (Attachment C provides an extended transcript of Chaplain Davis' prepared remarks.)

Jessi Wigdahl stated that the Say YAAAS to Reading program was an opportunity to bring people together for literacy. She suggested that reading is an activity that can be shared and enjoyed by all kinds of people and that the program afforded attendees an opportunity for citizens to sit in a shared space and to celebrate the shared value of literacy. She found descriptions of the program to be clear and felt that all families in attendance had knowingly chosen to participate with their children and to support the shared values of literacy, kindness, acceptance and neighborliness. (Attachment D provides a copy of Ms. Wigdahl's remarks.)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 20, 2018 were presented. Tadonne Neal moved (Littlejohn) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Kerin Smith moved to approve the revenue report for November 2018 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Kerin Smith moved to approve the 204 report of expenditures for November 2018 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Smith moved to approve the report of bills for October 2018 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$1,094,023.22; Grant Fund Bills of \$17,139.03; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$3,632.39 for a total of \$1,114,794.64. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President McWhorter announced that Ms. Smith will be leaving the board at the end of 2018. All present expressed their appreciation to Ms. Smith for her years of service on the board and as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Operations Committee Report

Committee Chair Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee met prior to the meeting and discussed a proposed motion directing staff to compile a draft programming policy, but opted

to leave the matter in the hands of the Board at large rather than to offer a committee motion.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair David Babich reported that the punch list at the Advanced Learning Library is still being addressed. The buffalo grass will be retained for at least the next growing season. There is a need for additional lighting in the parking lot on the southwest side of the building. The bike share rack has been moved to the requested location. The exterior digital signage is in final production and should be installed before the end of the year.

Security systems have been updated at the Maya Angelou Northeast, Rockwell and Westlink branches.

Mr. Babich asked Mr. Johnston to comment on the work of the task force that has been convened to update the master plan for library branches. Mr. Johnston reported that the group had defined its direction and that meetings would continue in January.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Committee Chair Lamont Anderson reported that the committee had decided to assume the primary responsibility for outreach to legislators, as a replacement to the previous system where each member of the Board at large signed up to develop contacts with one or more legislators. Any board members who had personal relationships with members of the legislature were urged to let the committee know of them, to allow coordination of advocacy.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – no report

Library Foundation – Tom Borrego reported that pledges for the campaign continue to be received. The end-of-year appeal mailing has been completed. A grant of \$25,000 from the Friends of the Library has been matched by donations received in response to the appeal.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – no report

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner reported that the Advanced Learning Library was featured in the November 15, 2018 architectural issue of *Library Journal* magazine.

A Kansas Senate tribute by Senator Lynn Rogers commending the Library for its work with The Big Read Wichita and for numerous other community efforts to encourage reading was shared.

Director Berner reviewed the proposed 2019 Library Goals and Activities. The work plan is based upon the three service pillars of supporting a literate community, ensuring digital inclusion, and providing equitable access to information. Jonathan Winkler moved (Bock) to approve the plan as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Director Berner referred board members to the programming policy report and staff's request for feedback from board members concerning the potential components of such a policy.

Mr. McWhorter reiterated to board members that the information in the report was compiled from existing policies at public libraries across the country and Canada. The goal of the discussion is to take the information and feedback gathered and provide it to staff so a first draft of a programming policy can be written.

Donna Douglas left the meeting.

Mr. Babich confirmed that the updated version of the report incorporated the changes he suggested during the November board meeting. He expressed concern about statements that would be so broad as to be of little use in guiding program design. Mr. Winkler stated that it is important to frame the policy language in general terms to avoid the trap of trying to specify minutely what programs can be done.

Ms. Neal advised that the policy should follow PHI-004 Library Bill of Rights. Ms. Neal explained that she had several suggestions in the way some of the parts of the policy should be worded, and proposed to share a copy of these with staff. Mr. Anderson advised that the policy should fall in line with the mission and vision of the library and be inclusive in nature. He agreed that it should follow the Library Bill of Rights. Parents should continue to have the discretion to decide whether their children attend programs.

Ms. Bock suggested that not every program will be attractive to all members of the community.

Dr. Henry asked that the proposed policy be sent to the City of Wichita Law Department for review prior to presenting a draft to the Board in order to expedite the review and approval process.

Erinn Bock left the meeting.

President McWhorter reviewed each section of the programming policy report, soliciting feedback from board members on items that should be reworded, added, or deleted. Board members shared comments and recommendations for changes that were addressed to the sections dealing with guiding principles and with criteria for program selection and development. There was extended discussion on the question of whether the eventual policy should allow children to be excluded from certain programs or provide for signage and publicity advising parents to exercise extra discretion.

President McWhorter asked for a show of hands from members of the public wishing to address the Board on the topic of the proposed programming policy. Based on the number of people wishing to speak, Mr. McWhorter moved (Smith) to allow members of the public two minutes to speak in reference to the programming policy discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The following members of the public made statements to the board:

- 1) Susan McWhorter asked that the proposed policy be as generic as possible without creating limits on what children can read, listen to or attend.
- 2) Trevor Storment spoke in opposition of a proposed policy that would limit LGBTQ programming.
- 3) Liz Hamor, Chapter Director for GLSEN Kansas, noted that this topic presents the Board and library staff with what the Kansas Leadership Center would call an adaptive challenge. She encouraged creation of a policy that would be inclusive of all members of the community, adding that the library is a perfect place to let go of fear about groups that are different from oneself.
- 4) Deanna Reynolds applauded the process being used by the Board to hear from residents on this issue. She discouraged creation of a policy that would take decision-making regarding program attendance away from individual families and asked that any proposed policy be grounded on the word “public.”
- 5) Trevor Mahan suggested that the program policy should be inclusive of the entire community and noted that he wished that the opportunity to attend programs such as Say YAAAS to Reading had been available when he was younger.
- 6) Christy Rafferty asked that the Library offer more programs like Say YAAAS to Reading. She believes that children understand differences less and less and that it is important that library programming maintains inclusion in order to support common humanity.

David Babich left the meeting.

- 7) Jan Swartzendruber explained that she publishes the Building Bridges E-letter. She thanked the Board for the time being taken to hear from residents on this issue and expressed total faith in the Board’s ability to create a policy that would reflect the community.
- 8) Gregory Treat stated that it is a parent’s right to provide library access for their children and suggested that if libraries set policies based in religion that it would violate the Establishment Clause of the US Constitution.
- 9) Floyd Saunders stated that public libraries should be separate from religious perspectives and that all children need the opportunity to read.
- 10) Teresa Cook objected to Library-sponsored programming incorporating non-traditional families.
- 11) David Griffin thanked the Board for the process being used. He noted that a materials policy for the Library already exists. He proposed that a programming policy for the Library also exists and that it is a matter of people drawing the line in different places. As

an example, groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and nudists would not be allowed in the library because they would interfere with the operation of the library.

- 12) Scott Davis noted that a moral compass is needed in the policies created and implemented for the library.
- 13) Amanda Buckner Middleton asked the board to keep the policy where parents can make a distinction about program participation. She added that not all customers are Christian, so the Bible should not be used as the guide for policy creation.
- 14) Jennifer Pearson thanked the Board for hosting the Say YAAAS to Reading event. She explained that the mere fact something references LGBTQ identity does not mean it is adult-oriented. She asked that the City's values of engagement and equity be considered, and that the fear of negative feedback not be allowed to override integrity and inclusion.
- 15) Anne Maack encouraged the Board to consider tenets II and V of the Freedom to Read policy, specifically that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal approval and that a person's right to use a library not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views. She proposed that these same tenets should apply to programs and added that earlier comments about signage or announcements labeling programs by age categories would seem to be in conflict with these tenets.
- 16) Lindsay Drees referenced the Library Bill of Rights and noted that it negates many of the things previously discussed in the meeting. She also noted that the American College of Pediatricians, a group cited earlier in the meeting as an assembly of medical experts, is more accurately described as a socially conservative advocacy group and is identified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for its anti-LGBT positions.
- 17) Brad Thomison thanked the Board for supporting the Say YAAAS to Reading program and explained that he was one of the volunteers who performed at the event. He added that while the Board could not control much of the response to the program, they did have the opportunity to find ways to protect and support the work of the Library staff and encouraged them to do so.
- 18) Craig Coffey stated that under the existing programming policies of the library, all groups would have access. The Board has no option but to welcome these groups. He added that there are certain black and white standards that exist and urged the Board to consider and adopt guidelines that are decent, healthy and uplifting.
- 19) Elle Boatman stated that the LGBTQ community needs to feel welcomed and included at the library.
- 20) Philip Fraser thanked the Board for the time and work being invested to consider this issue. He affirmed that it is pragmatic to adopt a policy. As someone who attends many library-sponsored activities, he finds that the programs add value to the life of Wichitans. He encouraged the Board to maintain access to diverse perspectives and to offer a variety of programs. He further noted that sponsorship of an event does not mean it is an

endorsement of the ideas and recommended that parents be the final authority in determining library use for their own children.

Jennifer Goheen left the meeting.

- 21) Marisa Reed commented that she appreciated the Say YAAAS to Reading program and the queens standing up to hate. As a homeschooling mother, she believes that her children need to be exposed to diversity, inclusion and acceptance. The Library should not be a place for religion.
- 22) Brenda Way identified herself as the founder of the Wichita Transgender and Community Network. She commented that the Board has a big job to make a policy that fits the entire community and encouraged them to consider the importance of challenging censorship and supporting inclusiveness as referenced in tenets III and V of the Library Bill of Rights.

New Business

President McWhorter advised the board that due to a conflict with a meeting of the branch master planning task force, the January board meeting will need to be rescheduled to 10:30 am or 2:00 pm. The majority of the board indicated a preference for 10:30 am.

President McWhorter moved (Neal) to change the time of the January board meeting to 10:30 a.m. The motion **carried** by a vote of 9-1 with Mr. Winkler in opposition.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries

Attachment A: Statement read by Dan R. Rouser

The Library for Everyone

Some things are so important in our world, that they are supported by everyone for everyone.

Schools, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Courts and the Judiciary, roads and bridges are all so essential that they are socialized. Everyone supports them for everyone else.

When you call the police, they don't ask you if you've ever been arrested. Schools do not turn away students because of their parent's religious beliefs. Libraries don't ask for your IQ before you can use their computers. They don't ask you if you are filled with anger and hatred before you check out a book.

Two months ago, the board of this library heard some extremely angry, vile, slanderous hatred from the mouth of a minister. The library very gently edited those hate filled words in their minutes. But they were uttered here and they were hideous. Now those same people appear to wish to force you, the Library Board, to allow only ideas they approve of to be expressed in these walls because by their very nature, the LGBTQ agenda is corrupting to our society. They've made that very clear.

I'd ask you which is more corrupting: anger, hatred, prejudice and exclusion, or a plea for equality. And I'd ask the people complaining so loudly, "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?" I've read a collection of all of the things Jesus said in the bible. And none of them sounded anything at all like what was said here two months ago.

What would Jesus say? It is a fair question and I'm pretty sure Jesus would not say any of the vicious things said here two months ago. Again What would Jesus Do?

Thank you.

Attachment B: Statement read by Craig Coffey

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to again speak before the Board.

I will mainly be addressing certain aspects of the YAAS to Reading After Action Review along with commenting on the future goals of the Library as it pertains to content offerings to the community. Please enter this Statement into the meeting minutes in its entirety.

First of all I want to address the Library Board Public Agenda Request Form. This document was sent to me by Director Berner on Dec. 3rd with the following comment.... "As explained in the November Library Board of Directors meeting, here is a request form comparable to that used by the City Council. If you are interested in addressing the board in December, please complete a request and submit it to us. Requested are accepted on a first-come, first served basis."

I have some observations concerning this Form. I wasn't required to complete the Form prior to speaking at the October meeting. The public wasn't advised until the November meeting that such a Form was required to speak, nor was I provided with the Form prior to the November meeting, through I stated in October that I wanted to be placed on the agenda at all future meetings until the YAAS issue was resolved.

Is this Form a new policy? If not, why wasn't I required to submit it prior to speaking in October and why wasn't the policy enforced? If so, have all speakers on today's Public Comment Agenda submitted this form? I am sure some speakers have been turned away from today's meeting because they knew nothing about the Form or they have not completed and returned it on the first-come, first-served basis. Is it the Board's intention to limit the number of speakers at each meeting? If not, then why is the Form required? If so, then please enforce your existing policy equally and communicate the necessity of the Form.

Today I am submitting Public Agenda Request Forms completed for the first three months of 2019. These are showing meeting dates on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

According to public records, the Drag Queen Story Hour is not a local program but is in fact a social engineering recommendation from the American Library Association. Public, taxpayer funded libraries in more than 40 states have hosted this program clearly geared toward the recruitment of children into the LGBTQ agenda. Many thousands have already signed a national petition to the ALA and many people are speaking out against this program across the nation. Many libraries have canceled this program after the truth of its content became public.

I'll now address the YAAS to Reading After Action Review. I appreciate the Library Director and the Board taking some responsibility for the mismanagement and oversights of the staff. Established policies and procedures were not adhered to by Library staff. The Library Director must assume full responsibility for this lack of oversight, as well as not informing the City Manager and City Council of what was obviously going to be a divisive and morally reprehensible program.

The fact is that preferential treatment WAS extended to the drag queens and the LGTBQ activists. While not condoning the tactics of the lone picketer outside of the Library that evening, it must be noted that the vast majority of the outdoor demonstrators DID picket peacefully and DID immediately comply with law enforcement personnel. It is shamefully obvious that equal enforcement of policy and procedures WAS NOT directed toward the LGTBQ activists inside the building. These activists knowingly and deliberately imposed their agenda on to the Library staff and the public. The activists' actions were calculated, planned, and then enabled by Library staff that evening.

Why was law enforcement used for assistance for activity OUTSIDE of the building protesting the event vs. no law enforcement requested toward those INSIDE of the Library supporting the event and handing out literature contrary to policy and procedures? Selective enforcement is clearly evident.

When it was obvious the evening's program was NOT going to be held as advertised and within established policies and procedures, the prudent action would have been to immediately cancel the event. This more responsible and sensible approach would have served the public and our children well. Library staff would not have been tempted and coerced to violate policies and procedures while catering to such a dysfunctional event. The citizens of Wichita, the City Council, the City Manager, the Library Director, and the Board of Directors would have been spared public embarrassment and media attention.

The expectation for the future is that ALL citizens will be held to the same standards of conduct. The taxpayers expect better use of our funding and equal treatment. Once again, we see the 3% of our population (the LGTBQ activists) seeking to manipulate and control the public, this time by undermining and circumventing our public Library.

As it stands, the After Action Review raises at least as many questions as it does providing answers. It is obvious that the vast majority of taxpaying citizens are NOT being fairly and equally represented. The stated agenda of the 2% is being enabled to override the views of the 98%.

Current Library policy would HAVE no choice but to accommodate such socially militant groups as the KKK, Antifa, the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations, NAMBLA (North American Man/Boy Love Association), etc., etc. While the views and agendas of these groups are both morally and socially reprehensible, they are no more less so than the LGTBQ activists.....including the drag queens and their supposed "adult only entertainment."

Are these policies serving the public or self-serving the so-called "progressive agenda?" Would these subversive groups be given the room rent-free by the Library staff as was the drag queens? Isn't it time to use some common sense and decency even when it clashes with political correctness, progressivism, and the objectives of the American Library Association?

It is commendable that the Board of Directors now see the need to implement clearer directives along with making a priority of following existing policies and procedures. Being proactive is always better than having to be reactive.

Two months ago I proposed and volunteered to sit on a Citizens Advisory Board to assist

Library staff in researching and offering family-friendly and wholesome alternatives to the Drag Queen Story Hour. As of today I have not been contacted by Library staff. My offer of this community service still stands.

Two months ago I volunteered my wife and I to host a children's reading hour offering Bible stories and other family-friendly material. As of today I have not been contacted by Library staff. My offer of this community service still stands.

The community will remain watchful of the actions taken by the Library Director and the Board. We have been promised transparency. We have been promised better direction. We WILL continue to hold you accountable.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak.

Attachment C: Statement provided by Scott Davis

Good afternoon. I am Chaplain Scott Davis.

I am here today to ask the Library Board to utilize a particular book for its instructional guidance in formulating your new policies and procedures. This is the most popular book ever written. Many homes have multiple copies of it. It is the very best source for finding instructions for living a blessed life! This book is called The Bible, The Holy Bible, and The Word of God. The Bible shows us the heart of God! God desires that all people would find salvation, healing and deliverance in its pages. The Bible contains the power to change lives. I know, because it has changed mine. The young man I was back in my early days is completely different than the man I am today. Have I arrived to where I want to be? Not yet, but I am constantly moving in that direction. And it is by God's grace that He shows me where I need to change.

So let me explain here that God loves drag queens as much as he loves me. Now, does God like it when I sin? Does He like it when I try and manipulate someone? No, He does not. Through His written Word and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, He tells me that I need to repent. So I confess my sin and I change my ways. Now, does God like it when a drag queen sins? No, He does not. God's Word tells us that sexual immorality is a sin. Mankind is not to be involved in sexual depravity. God's design for mankind is for a man and a woman to come together and be one flesh. God said, be fruitful and multiply. This can only occur between a man and a woman. We, as the created, have a mandate to follow the instructions of our Creator. Do we have to follow the instructions that God has given us in the Bible? No, we do not. God has given us all free will. We get to choose who we want to follow. We can follow after God our Creator, or we can follow after the ways of the world whose leader is Satan. We will either reap the rewards for following after our Creator with an abundant life that leads to eternal life, or those who have been deceived by the father of lies with great sufferings which ends with the consequences of eternal death. Now it is not possible to live in this world and not sin. God of course understands this, so He gave us His Son Jesus to die for us and to pay for the penalty of our sins. Because of God's great love for mankind, He willingly gave us his Son as our redeemer. Father God desires for all of us to be in relationship with Him. What can hinder that relationship? Sin. It is a huge obstruction to this relationship. Now let me share with you my lifetime of experiences with this sin that I am speaking about.

At age 14 I was introduced to my need for a Savior. I confessed my sins and told Jesus I wanted to follow after Him. My flesh was having a hard time with this, because that part of me still wanted the things of the world. So there was a struggle going on in the inside of me. As a young man in my twenties, God showed me that I had some unforgiveness in my heart that I needed to deal with. That was God's grace, because I was not aware that it was even there. When I confessed to the sin of unforgiveness, my life was radically changed. As a result of this radical change, I asked God what He wanted me to do for Him. He showed me that He wanted me to do prison and jail ministry. My response to that was: What? God, You know I stutter. How on earth do You expect me to do this when I can't even talk? He answered me right back and said, "Where you are weak, I am strong." I told Him okay, I will do it, knowing that this was more than likely going to be very difficult and be very embarrassing. That was the beginning of 40 years of jail and prison ministry. In the beginning of this formalized ministry, the county had at that time incarcerated around 200 people. The population has now outgrown

the jail. The population has burgeoned to approximately 1600 hundred incarcerated persons. Why the increase? There are many reasons. In checking the statistics, you will find that crime skyrocketed off the charts when they took prayer out of schools. The moral decline of society was set in motion.

During the first 28 years of that ministry, I went down weekly to the Sedgwick County jail as a volunteer and ministered to the needs of the men and women that were incarcerated there. During that same time period, I had my own construction company here in Wichita that employed as many as 50 people. As God directed, I closed the door on my construction company and accepted the full time ministry position as Chaplain Coordinator of the Sedgwick County Detention Facility for a period of 12 years. I worked 40 to 60 hours on a weekly basis. As a side note, I took this on as a volunteer, I was not on the payroll of Sedgwick County Jail.

In my early days of following after Jesus, I knew almost nothing about the spiritual realm that God operates in. Through much training and my own personal experiences, I learned quickly about the spiritual realm. Interesting enough, is the fact that scientists have proven that many different realms exist. There is God's Kingdom of Light and then there is Satan's realm of darkness. God rules His kingdom with His angels and with the human beings that follow after Jesus. Satan tries to rule his realm of darkness with deceived fallen angels (known as demons) and deceived human beings. Being at the jail all those years, I have encountered multiple thousands of demons. I myself had some from birth, and others that would transfer on to me when I would lay hands on inmates when I would pray for them. So I learned quickly about the ministry of deliverance. You could say that for 40 years I have come face-to-face with the demonic realm here in Wichita and other cities. I have seen the suffering in the lives of deceived men and women. Needless to say, my heart is so very grieved that Satan has deceived so many people. How many people? The Sedgwick County Jail is a very busy place! On the average day, they arrest 80 to 100 people. This should not be happening. Mankind was made in the image of God. God is good. Satan is not good; he is evil. Satan prowls around to see whom he may devour. The Bible also says that he is a thief that comes to steal, to slaughter, and to destroy. While ministering at the jail I have done deliverance on many homosexuals and lesbians. I have become good friends with many of them. Some of them call me on a weekly basis because of Father God's love that I am willing to share with them. Not a lot of people understand the torment and bondage that these people suffer with because they were deceived by Satan and his demons into a lifestyle of sexual perversion.

As a representative for most of the citizens of Sedgwick County, I beg of you from the bottom of my heart that as you formalize the policies and the procedures for the library, that you would not come into agreement with those that have been trapped by Satan into sexual depravity. I am comprehending that the library board carries a huge responsibility to the citizens of Wichita for the information that it distributes. I ask that you would not: give license to, open the door to, promote, give a voice to, give a platform to or come into alignment with the realm of darkness where Satan is the deceiver. Instead, I ask that you would focus on the supernatural fruits of the Kingdom of Light which include: Goodness, Righteousness, Wholesomeness, and Truth! Against these, there is no law.

Choose today whom you will follow! Will it be the Kingdom of Light created by God? Will it be the realm of darkness led by Satan?

Attachment D: Remarks from Jessi Wigdahl

For a while now, but especially over the past two years, many Americans have been in a state of lament because of political polarization - tired of "us vs them," wanting to know why we can't find common ground. Republican Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska recently released a NYT bestseller on that same issue, wherein he encourages us to reinvest in our communities, get to know our neighbors, and remind ourselves of all the things we have in common. That's **exactly** what SYTR was - an opportunity for people of varied backgrounds, interests, and beliefs to come together and celebrate a shared value: the importance of literacy. There was no "agenda" on the agenda. The presenters didn't lead a sociological discussion or political rally - they read books. They demonstrated, very ably, that reading is an activity that can be shared, enjoyed, and appreciated by all kinds of people. That reading is **important** to all kinds of people. And not only that, but that the **library itself** is an important and inviting resource for everyone. So many of the detractors' statements come from an either/or stance: either the library can be a cherished resource for the city's conservative community, or it can occasionally host progressive programming. What I want to ask you, the Board, to consider is - why can't it be both? Does it really have to be "us" or "them?" What good does that do for us as a community?

I read the Board's report about the event. I saw many, many complaints wherein the complainant referenced God or religion - most often Christianity specifically. I am a Christian. In Mark chapter 7, Jesus warned that "you shall know them by their fruits." He went on to explain that "a good tree cannot bear bad fruits." So let's consider the words of some of my fellow Christians quoted in that report:

"Disgusting"

"Vile"

"Circus freaks"

"Trans filth"

"Why is it a concern that the gay community in Wichita is perceived as 'unwelcome?'"

...I'm not sure what fruit those words are supposed to bear. I can assure you that for the decades and centuries preceding us when those attitudes were predominant (although clearly, they hold strong even now), the fruit was anything but good. Is that perspective really the one from which we, the community at large, want to take our cues? Are those the marching orders that should direct some of our most cherished communal institutions? Changing attitudes toward differences of all stripes, not only gender identity and sexuality, have saved lives. Events like SYTR save lives. Period. Giving a small, vilified and clearly misunderstood group the chance not only to have some visibility, period, but to visibly promote **shared communal values** brings hope and healing for those who are able to witness it - the hope that just maybe, they do have a place here in the heartland. That their neighbors and family can accept them. That they have something to offer. That is **priceless.** And more than that, it's GOOD FRUIT. It is up to you, the Board, to weigh the value of **saving lives** versus the value of sour grapes. Because that's the only "damage" wrought by this event.

There was a lot of handwringing in those comments and e-mails about "the children" with respect to this event, which I believe the Board should disregard completely. Probably the most

repeated claim in those complaints was that the event would somehow draw parents who wouldn't actually want their children there, but somehow wouldn't know that from the description of the event itself. Please take a moment to consider how flatly absurd that is on its face. The descriptions available were clear enough that all of the commenters knew they would never take their children to such an event. But instead of being content with exercising their option not to attend, they want to take options away from families who *would* want to attend, such as the 220 Wichitans who packed the house. I want to make this abundantly clear to the homosexually averse citizens of Wichita: there absolutely were children at the event. Not because the marketing of the event or newspaper articles tricked us into taking them. Our kids were there because WE WANTED THEM TO BE THERE. Because we are making investments now, with our most precious resources, in those shared values: Literacy. Kindness. Acceptance. Neighborliness. Because those investments will bear good fruit. I can only hope the library will continue to make those investments with us.