

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
July 16, 2019.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present: Mr. Lamont Anderson, Ms. Erinn Bock, Mr. Axel Chacon, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Jennifer Goheen, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shannon Littlejohn, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. TaDonne Neal, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler.

Staff Presentation

Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager Julie Sherwood presented information about upcoming fall programs. This year's NEA Big Read: Wichita program will feature the book *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. During the months of October and November, more than 50 events will be held around Wichita and will relate to the themes in the book. Mayor Jeff Longwell, Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers and Congressional spouse Susan Estes have agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs for the program. The kickoff party will be held on Saturday, September 28 at the Advanced Learning Library. Aubrey Streit and Tim Crews from The Land Institute will share insights emerging from their research community's study of human relationships to crop plants at a keynote event at Botanica on October 9. Chemical oceanographer Sarah Oktay, from the University of California at Davis, will speak at the "Everyone is a Scientist: Lessons from a Life Lived Through the Lens of Curiosity" keynote event, which will be held on October 26 at the Great Plains Nature Center. Additional featured events include a Community Art Fair at City Arts and an Art on the Trail event at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Additional fall programs were highlighted, including an Eating Smart, Moving More program presented by the Sedgwick County Extension Office, community story times, a Safe Streets program addressing underage drinking, and the Tallgrass Film Festival Free Friday Quarterly author events in partnership with Watermark Books and Café will begin in September.

Call to Order

President Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m., a quorum being present.

Approval of the Agenda

Chuck Schmidt moved (Littlejohn) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 18, 2019 were presented. Donna Douglas moved (Hirsh) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Erinn Bock moved to approve the revenue report and the 204 report of expenditures for June 2019 as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Bock moved to approve the report of bills for June 2019 in the following amounts: General Fund operating bills of \$817,414.98; Grant Fund Bills of \$48,628.84; and Gift & Memorial Fund bills of \$112.40 for a total of \$866,156.22. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Bock moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Bock moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Accounting of the Gift and Memorial Fund. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Committee Chair Jonathan Winkler reported that the committee reviewed the draft policy for background checks of program presenters that was included in board packets. In the accompanying agenda report, staff had asked for guidance on two policy issues. The first question concerned background checks for individuals under the age of 18. The committee preferred to leave the age at 18 while holding open the possibility of dropping the age to 16 in the future. The second query revolved around what to do if a background check returned with offenses committed prior to the age of 18. The committee decided to leave decisions in such cases to staff discretion because not all states handle underage offenses in a consistent manner. Shelby Petersen asked what would happen if a NSOPW search returned incomplete results through one or more states' databases being temporarily unavailable. Director Berner stated that since programs are scheduled on a significant lead time, staff would have the opportunity to redo a check when access to any missing states' systems was restored. The committee recommended that an updated version of the proposed policy be added to the new business agenda at the August Library Board meeting.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Committee Chair Randy Johnston reported that the punch list at the Advanced Learning Library is still being addressed. The landscaping contractor is replacing dead trees and plants. The City of Wichita has taken over the mowing on a weekly schedule. The HVAC system is running well with only one issue in the conference center. There are no new roof leaks and additional signs are being considered for the parking lot.

A part has been ordered to fix the leak in the basement at the Rockwell branch library.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Committee Chair Lamont Anderson reported that letters are being drafted to send to legislators thanking them for their support of the Library. The letters will highlight all of the great things happening within the library system and will encourage those who have not yet visited the Advanced Learning Library to do so.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Director Berner reported that the Friends of the Library would like to thank the Library Board for participating in the ICT Adult Spelling Bee. Board members are invited to attend a program on August 8 at the Advanced Learning Library featuring author Jennifer Pharr Davis. Ms. Davis will share stories, slides, and excerpts from her latest book *The Pursuit of Endurance*.

Library Foundation – President McWhorter introduced Kristi Oberg, the new Foundation CEO.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No report.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Berner reported that City Manager Layton will present his recommended operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets to the City Council on July 23.

Discussions continue with Council Member Claycomb about the role of the Evergreen branch within the Evergreen complex. Director Berner and board members Lauren Hirsh and Shelby Petersen met recently with Council Member Clendenin to discuss the planned relocation of the Linwood branch. Director Berner will attend a meeting with Council Member Frye at the Ascension Lutheran Church to discuss opportunities for expanded parking for the Westlink branch.

Director Berner invited the board to extend congratulations to Customer Services Manager Kristi Dowell upon her selection as a participant in the Leadership Wichita program.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner
Director of Libraries