

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
March 21, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Rachel Enix, Dr. Justin Henry, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Ms. TaDonne Neal, and Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., a quorum being present.

Staff Presentation

Education and Engagement Manager Savannah Ball gave a presentation on the 2023 NEA Big Read for Wichita, which revolves around longtime *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast's "*Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*" This memoir, whose graphic novel format is a first for the Big Read, describes Chast's experience helping her parents through their final years. For many of its events, the Library is partnering with professionals and organizations in the community who support Wichitans navigating similar transitions.

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 February 21, 2023 were presented. Mr. Chuck Schmidt noted his last name appeared as Smith in the agenda packet. Shelby Petersen moved (Sauer) to approve the minutes with any amendments necessary to correct this error. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Director Nix presented results of the National Community Survey, which show that 84% of the Wichita community is satisfied with the quality of Library service. This was the highest rating of any City department. Staff plans to review the metrics used in the survey to determine gaps in service and identify potential areas of improvement in offerings where adjustments can be made to further increase community satisfaction.

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the February finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$826,547.76; Grant Fund Bills of \$21,706.07; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$48,188.06, for a total of \$896,441.89. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Digital Services Manager Jeff Tate presented information on RFID tag conversion. This project will add tags to all physical materials, install reader pads at identified staff workstations, and enable reading capability on existing self-check stations while adding new ones across branch locations. The automated materials handler at the Advanced Learning Library will be converted during this project as well. The Library's contractor plans to send nine workers and a project manager to place tags in approximately 650,000 physical items, a task which should take a few weeks to complete. Library locations will remain open while it is in progress.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve spending authority of up to \$450,000 total, with current invoices of \$411,731.05 for the conversion to RFID technology and purchase of three additional self-check units. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

No report.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

No report.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Ms. Abi Boatman reported that the committee met to focus on exploring opportunities for the Library over the next few years to work within its budget while addressing needs within the community and communicating these needs with local leaders more effectively.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Director Nix reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library that the February book sale was a success. It opened initially for Friends advocates on Friday and then to the general public the following day. The next book sale will take place on May 13. The Friends will partner with the Library Foundation for an author reception on April 14 for the Big Read program. The annual volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held April 28 at the

Advanced Learning Library.

Library Foundation – Kristi Oberg reported that Library Giving Day is April 4 and the goal this year is to raise \$12,000. The capital campaign of \$2 million for Westlink is now in the quiet phase. The entire campaign plan runs for 18 to 24 months. Robert Swanson has been hired as a fundraising consultant. A grant application for \$171,000 has been submitted to the United Way of the Plains.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No Report

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that all of the budget program options the Board approved in February have been submitted to the City and will go to budget workshops soon. Library representatives attended advisory board meetings in Districts 1 and 5 to hear feedback from the community about the Maya Angelou branch and Westlink branch expansion. The planning team has held community engagement activities and launched a survey last week to elicit community feedback on the Westlink project. The team will continue to meet every Wednesday.

Filming for PBS Viewpoints is set for May 26.

An RFQ has been sent out for the exterior wrap on the book bus. The book bus project has gathered steam, and staff hopes the vehicle will be ready for the Riverfest parade in June.

The 26 Little Free Libraries will be launched in District 3 on Thursday, March 24.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix