

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
July 18, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday July 18, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Rachel Enix, Dr. Justin Henry, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Donna Douglas moved (Schmidt) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Staff Presentation

Virtual Librarian Greg Nordyke described upcoming updates to digital services and the Library's website that will expand presentation of timely and relevant information to the community. Webpages that demonstrate this focus cover topics as diverse as the Little Free Libraries, elections and voter registration, the Library of Things, public art at Library locations, and branch remodels. Keeping the website fresh and current while also promoting upcoming significant Library programs plays a crucial role in keeping the community informed of things happening within the Library.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 20, 2023 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Douglas) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

Director Nix informed the Board that proposals for the 2025 budget must be included among options for the 2024 process. The Library will put a draft proposal in August board packets.

New Business

None

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the June finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$792,784.71; Grant Fund bills of \$25,020.30; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$18,269.16, for a total of \$836,074.17. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the Short Edition invoice in the amount of \$10,044.00 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to receive and file the January through July 2023 report of the Gift and Memorials Account as included in Board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of Staff Travel as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

TaDonne Neal reported that the committee discussed the book bus and reviewed draft images of the wrap that will be applied to its exterior. Committee members also examined the Library's tentative monthly rotation of stops, which are concentrated in parts of the city not within easy reach of a library branch. This schedule incorporates opportunities for pop-up visits.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh reported that additional ARPA funds have been received and will be used to increase the CIP budget for branch remodels. Potential uses for this money include electric charging stations, additional self-check units, wireless service outside of library buildings, more laptop dispensers, infrastructure for a community garden at Angelou, and charging benches.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Abi Boatman reported that the committee discussed ideas for the rollout of the book bus and the idea of being able to track the book bus. The Library will sponsor a library card design competition for three new looks to the cards. On August 12, it will hold an Author Day event with a writers' panel and approximately 100 local authors.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation – Director Nix reported that Kristi Oberg recently received training on how to apply the income tax credits recently received. The Foundation was awarded \$115,000 in these credits, which equals \$230,000 for the Capital Campaign. This fundraising effort has been gaining traction, with over \$700,000 committed currently and more asks on the table for several named gift opportunities. The goal is \$2 million.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No report.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that the current library card design has been in use for a very long time. Library staff will thus conduct a card design contest to create three new designs that patrons can choose from for their card.

The Library recently offered cards to City of Wichita employees, and so far over 27 have signed up.

Earlier this month, the new strategic agenda advisory team met. This body includes various leaders from the local area, with Dr. Maaskelah Thomas serving as the Library Board representative.

The Wichita Public Library will turn 150 years old in 2026. Staff is developing a project that will archive the Library’s history and community impact; it will be unveiled in the anniversary year.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix