

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
September 19, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Mr. Kevin McWhorter, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Dr. Maaskelah Thomas, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Donna Douglas and Ms. Shelby Petersen.

### Call to Order

Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., a quorum being present.

### Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Maaskelah Thomas moved (Sauer) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Public Comment

No

### Staff Presentation

Savannah Ball, Engagement and Education Manager, and Erin Howerton, Youth Services Manager provided an update on how Youth Services has worked to meet the library's new values of Inclusive, Responsive, and Collaborative.

In order to strengthen inclusivity, Youth Services hired performers from diverse backgrounds to perform at branches over the summer so more children could feel included and represented. These performers included Ann Torralba, Lucky Diaz, Devin Walker, and Roy Moye.

Youth Services demonstrated responsiveness by adding the adult summer reading program, which was well received. The Library's Fine Free for All initiative, which allows physical materials to be returned late without charge, also allowed them to respond to the needs of young patrons for continued access to the library.

To encourage collaboration, Savannah Ball and Erin Howerton traveled to Long Island to train and learn more about Family Place Libraries, a network that offers an array of enjoyable and free programs and services for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, parents and caregivers. After much training, planning, and preparing, the Family Place Library was introduced at the Advanced Learning Library on September 14.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 15, 2023 were presented. Chuck Schmidt moved (Hirsh) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

None

### Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the July finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$853,016.57; Grant Fund Bills of \$27,999.47; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$32,442.98, for a total of \$913,459.02. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the annual EBSCO subscription renewal invoice up to the amount of \$32,000.00 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### Operations Committee Report

Jonathan Winkler reported that the two new librarian positions for the Angelou and Walters branches, which were approved as program options during the City's budget process, will soon be filled. This will allow a small increase in service hours at both locations.

Director Nix reviewed a series of policy updates by staff. These included:

- CIR-006: Interlibrary Loan: eliminates fee structure for requests
- CIR-007.1: Circulation Parameters
- CIR-013.1: Bankruptcies
- REF-004: Internet Access and Acceptable Use Policy
- CUS-006: Filming and Photography Policy
- COL-002.1: Selection Criteria

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to adopt policy change CIR-006 as recommended by staff. The motion **passed** by a vote of 9-1 with Mr. Randall Johnston opposed.

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Hirsh) to adopt policy change CIR-007.1 as recommended by staff. The motion **passed** by a vote of 9-1 with Mr. Randall Johnston opposed.

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Sauer) to adopt policy change CIR-013.1 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Hirsh) to adopt policy change REF-004 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Thomas) to adopt policy change CUS-006 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Boatman) to adopt policy change COL-002.1 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Planning & Facilities Committee Report**

Lauren Hirsh reported that the Planning and Facilities Committee did not meet formally due to lack of a quorum. The Westlink branch remodel continues to progress and a contractor will hopefully be selected in October to begin construction.

Lessons learned from the building of the Advanced Learning Library, as well as input from customers, are being applied to future remodels; this is leading to an increase in collaboration spaces. The final branch renovations identified in the Branch Master Plan will be initiated in October.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Ericka Sauer reported that the Public Affairs Committee discussed the success of Local Author Day. The library card design contest is now underway, and the Maker Faire was a success with 2800 people visiting.

The Wichita Public Library will now be part of a monthly news segment on KSN that will air on the third Monday of the month at 12:00 pm.

E-cards for students now number 22,500. Each can be converted to a physical card if the holder comes to the library with an adult.

The City of Wichita and the Wichita Public Library are planning a Digital Equity Summit in early 2024 to hammer out ways of collaborating with providers and educational resources to assist residents with both access and literacy in digital spaces. Funds for this are available through the state's Digital Access Funding program, and the best way to get access to these monies is to call the governor's office.

There was discussion on encouraging children to read, as it was noted that while many children signed up for the summer reading program, only around 40% of any age group completed it.

## **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – Trent Wetta reported that the Friends of the Library had a book sale during the Maker Faire that went well. A total of 632 people attended, 82 Friends showed up for the Friday preview, and proceeds aggregated to \$2,300. The volunteers organizing and running the sale did struggle with having less space, since fewer books could be put out.

The Friends of the Library continue to search for both volunteers and board members. Mr. Wetta noted that the Friends board functions as a good starter board for people who lack familiarity with the demands of this particular type of community service, since it only requires a person to be a Friend of the Library, which is a \$25 annual subscription, and has little fundraising pressure.

The budget remains healthy and the Friends of the Library feel confident in their continued ability to contribute to the Library. Yet they are in a state of transition and are trying to find new ways to provide value to their membership.

### **Library Foundation**

Director Nix reported that recruiting has begun for the Foundation’s new CEO as Kristi Oberg prepares to leave in mid-November. The Foundation is also beginning its end-of-year campaign and next month will ask for permission to share targeted information.

WPLF received \$25,000 of the desired \$100,000 from Intrust to help with the home caregiver program. The program will help with home delivery of books for children aged four or younger. The Foundation now seeks to partner with someone to help collect data and measure results to inform efforts to expand this program.

WPLF also received \$14,000 from the City of Wichita’s Cultural Arts Grant program.

Next month the Foundation plans to speak with 17 new donors about the capital campaign, which so far has raised just under \$1 million.

### **Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)–**

No report

## **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported that the design team for the Westlink branch remodel met, and tours were taken of the Angelou, Alford, and Rockwell locations so that ideas could be discussed for those renovations.

There is a new digital tour for the Chester I. Lewis Park. Gretchen Ike helped with the research for it, and a webpage has been created due to the amount of information that was amassed. The Candid Conversations series is in the works and is tentatively planned to consist of four segments that will look at art and discuss challenges surrounding equity and homeownership.

Development of the Library's strategic agenda is underway. The next step is to do an all-day workshop at which the Board will be represented by Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

The Library will be closed on October 9<sup>th</sup> for staff training. All board members are invited to join for or all parts of the training, which will include presentations on how to be more inclusive to customers with autism, as well as training on handling active shooter situations and using fire extinguishers.

One recent opportunity that promises to be fruitful but may stretch the Library's capacities is a collaboration with an early literacy center at 17<sup>th</sup> and Fairmont, about a mile from the Angelou branch. The Library is applying for grant funding to cover the cost of a small outlet collection geared to parents and children under eight years old, as well as staffing to assist in developing a new collaborative model for programming and collection access. The Library will be able to take up this opportunity only with the aid of a grant.

### **Announcements**

Kevin McWhorter reminded everyone that he will be gone next month, and that Lauren Hirsh will chair the Board meeting in his place.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix