

## **WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
October 17, 2023.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday October 17, 2023 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. TaDonne Neal and Dr. Maaskelah Thomas.

### **Call to Order**

Chuck Schmidt called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. However, a quorum was not then present, making this an informational meeting only.

### **Staff Presentation**

Collection Development Manager Sarah Kittrell outlined various ways in which the Library is improving access to its collections for members of the community. Baker & Taylor's DEI tool has been used to evaluate the collection, about 13.8% of which meets Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion standards across multiple categories of diversity. The Library has also purchased access to a number of new databases and programs for customers that help expand access to information: these include StackMap, Chilton, Consumer Reports, LinkedIn Learning, the New York Times, Newspapers.com, Reference Solutions, and more.

### **Finance Committee Report**

There was not a quorum.

### **Operations Committee Report**

There was not a quorum.

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

The committee did not meet.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Abi Boatman reported that attending members discussed upcoming programs at the library, plans for announcement and rollout of the bookmobile, and the planned kickoff for Kansas Reads to Preschoolers on November 4 with a storytime event at Alford.

### **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – Amanda Shankle reported the Friends Board currently has only seven members, two of whom will be leaving at the end of the year. Recruitment of new members

continues. There will be a used book sale at the Advanced Learning Library on December 1-2.

Library Foundation - Jennifer Keller reported that over \$900,000 has been raised for the Capital Campaign so far this year. The Foundation is now readying its end-of-year mailings to library customers. Gratitude cards have been sent to large donors. The card design features an image of the new bookmobile. Kristi Oberg's last day as Foundation CEO will be November 17, 2023, and an offer has been extended to a potential successor.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Fred Knoblauch reported that WGS membership continues to grow. However, the WGS board has been shrinking and the organization seeks to recruit new board members. The annual conference had good attendance and brought in 77 new paid memberships.

*Tadonne Neal joined.*

With the attainment of a quorum, official business started.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Shelby Petersen moved (Douglas) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 19, 2023 were presented. Shelby Petersen moved (Boatman) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **New Business**

Director Nix summarized the WPL Foundation's request for access to names from the Library customer database for end-of-year fundraising purposes. The Foundation will create a mail merge letter that Library staff will then forward to the direct mail printer along with contact information for cardholders meeting the Foundation's selection criteria. This process ensures that the Foundation receives the names only of individuals who contribute or ask to be added to its mailing list.

Jonathan Winkler moved (Petersen) to authorize staff to support the Foundation's year-end solicitation by supplying the requested customer account information. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Winkler) to approve the September General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,212,493.47. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Boatman) to approve the September Grant Fund Bills in the amount of \$13,218.66. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Sauer) to approve the September Memorial Fund bills in the amount of \$21,784.22. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Winkler) to approve the EBSCO/Consumer Reports quote for \$15,450.00 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Douglas) to approve the Communico quote for \$34,326.00 as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported that staff has applied for a grant of \$201,000 that will enhance technology and the collections at the Maya Angelou Northeast Branch and the newly constructed Storytime Village Early Learning Center. The Alford and Evergreen branches will serve as polling places for the 2024 election season. The Leadership Team will attend a forum for homelessness and addiction that is being held through the Kansas Leadership Center and is expected to provide invaluable information on resources and city services available to assist the homeless.

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix