

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
February 20, 2024.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Abi Boatman, Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Randall Johnston, Ms. Shelby Petersen, Ms. Ericka Sauer, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Karyn Shorter, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

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

Introductions

Lauren Hirsh introduced new board members Karyn Shorter and Robin Templin.

TaDonne Neal joined remotely.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

Staff presented outgoing Board President Kevin McWhorter with a book that will be added to the Library collection to honor his contributions to literacy in Wichita. Kevin served ten years on the board and will continue to support WPL as President of the Wichita Public Library Foundation.

Staff Presentation

Digital Services Manager Jeff Tate presented the 2024-2027 Interim Technology Plan. Every three years a technology plan is created that mirrors technology needs of the Library as well as the City budget. This working document is designed to be flexible in allowing tasks to be added or altered as staff become aware of gaps in the Library's provision of technology. The 2021-2023 plan was 95% completed and included ten major software upgrades, three new maker services, expansion of the AV studio, a laptops dispenser and hotspot lending, and increased technology programs, partnerships, and outreach. The current plan was developed with the four Library service pillars in mind and bridges the gap between the present and the forthcoming strategic agenda by being less aspirational and narrowing its focus to enhancements that can be delivered with shorter timelines. This affords a dynamic workflow for staff while maintaining flexibility to accommodate technology changes that the strategic agenda will demand.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 16, 2024 were presented. Donna Douglas moved (Sauer) to approve them as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Director Nix presented the 2024 Work Plan to the board for review and endorsement. This document lays out projected work ahead for the upcoming year, but remains dynamic to adjust to new or different community needs. It is arranged according to the pillars of service with set targets together with steps to be followed to reach those targets.

Shelby Petersen moved (Boatman) to receive and file the 2024 Work Plan as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt presented the December 2023 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$996,645.81; Grant Fund Bills of \$91,021.41; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$19,522.74, for a total of \$1,107,189.96. An error in calculations was discovered in the summary report, so approvals of the December 2023 financials will be held until the March board meeting.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved (Winkler) to approve the January 2024 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$613,335.20; Grant Fund Bills of \$7,020.71; and Gift and Memorial Fund bills of \$2,134.57, for a total of \$622,490.48. **Motion carried unanimously**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to receive and file the July through December 2023 report of the Gift and Memorials Account as included in Board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Finance Committee Report

Did not meet.

Operations Committee Report

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

- ORG-002.5 Support Services
- CIR-001 Customer Registration

On behalf of the Operations Committee, TaDonne Neal moved to adopt the policy changes as recommended by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Did not meet.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Abi Boatman asked board members to be aware of Senate Bill 358, which proposes a procedure for individuals to follow to have a book banned from a school or public library. While the bill is a good step forward in requiring hurdles to be cleared before a book is banned, it sets a low bar for such a proscription. This could create difficulties for smaller town libraries and communities.

Support Services Manager Tammy Penland was recently recognized as an honoree for the Wichita Business Journal's 2024 HR Professionals Award.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Erin Shields reported that new board officers have been elected for the year. The board has made 2024 gifting decisions for programs to support throughout the year. The Friends of the Library Facebook account recently got hacked. Advocate numbers have declined significantly with a loss of 31% in the past year. Strategies are being developed to reverse this trend.

Abi Boatman left.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson introduced herself as the new CEO of the Foundation. She comes from the Wichita Art Museum, where she served as director of development, and is currently onboarding and learning how the Foundation operates.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) –

No report.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix advised board members that the Big Read program is upcoming and the author will be doing a program. As ongoing branch remodels will cause some disruption to the Library's summer programming, the planning team is being creative and attentive to community needs as it adjusts the venues where programs will be offered and events will be held. Fortunately, the Book Bus furnishes another avenue for summer reading engagement. The last five of the Storywalks™ will be installed in March (Fairmount and Harrison Parks) and April (Linwood and Buffalo Parks).

The Library has applied for a Kansas Commerce Grant in conjunction with the Foundation to support WiFi expansion outside of library buildings and to purchase more solar-powered WiFi-enabled charging benches.

The annual report from 2023 was shared. It highlights not only the performance of services and programs but also some incredible community stories.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix