

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors  
September 17, 2024.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday September 17, 2024 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Donna Douglas, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Karyn Shorter, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Rose Mary Frame, Ms. Michelle Garrett, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

### Introductions

Savannah Ball introduced the new Adult Literacies Senior Librarian, Steven Kelly.

### Public Comment

None.

### Staff Presentation

Elizabeth Goltry, representing the City of Wichita's Finance Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the processes followed to develop the city budget and capital improvement program. She also summarized the findings from a survey the city conducted to measure residents' perceptions of the quality and importance of various city-funded endeavors, as well as their preferences for areas to focus on.

*Karyn Shorter, TaDonne Neal, and Michelle Garrett joined.*

Ms. Goltry also summarized the city's revenue sources, noting that waning investment income would likely drive future deficits. To avoid addressing these through hiring freezes and employee attrition, whose damaging effects on institutional capabilities and service provision tend to outlast short-term fluctuations in the fiscal position, the city is pursuing efficiencies such as automating payroll processing.

### Call to Order

Jonathan Winkler called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m., a quorum being present.

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 20, 2024 were presented. Kurt Oswald moved

(Schmidt) 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 August finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$1,199,363.94 and Grant Fund bills of \$16,559.74, for a total of \$1,215,923.68. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Lauren Hirsh joined.*

### **Operations Committee Report**

Jonathan Winkler noted the last meeting lacked a quorum. Director Nix reported that she spoke to committee members present about the key performance metrics the Library uses to keep on track with its goals and to guide implementation of the strategic agenda.

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

Karyn Shorter reported that the committee reviewed updates on the existing and upcoming renovations and discussed efforts to identify funding to maintain the investments being made.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

Kurt Oswald reported that the committee met and agreed to work on a redesign of the Welcome brochure as well as investing in diverse marketing that takes account of the approaches that work for each branch specifically and not just the library system as a whole.

### **Special Committee Reports**

*Friends of the Library* – Erin Shields reported that the Friends of the Library board has three new members and is hiring one new staff person. Volunteer hours have risen almost to pre-Covid numbers, and book sale profits are increasing.

*Library Foundation* – Kourtney Carson reported that the Foundation is applying for an Arts Thrive grant, offered by the city, to fund creation of a mural at the Walters branch.

*Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS)* – Vicki Everitt reported that the organization now has 164 members, including nine who joined last month.

## **Director of Libraries Report**

Director Nix reported that there are several big events coming up for the library, including Banned Book Week programming, the staff in-service day on October 14, and DIY Day on November 2.

The Library is actively recruiting for a Senior Communications Specialist.

Director Nix met with the City Council to provide updates on Summer Reading and branch renovations.

In conjunction with the Foundation, the Library is looking into a federal grant that would allow more expansive provision of Internet service than was previously possible with wifi hotspots. Over the four-year term of this new program, the Library would be able to offer Internet access to qualifying families for an entire year. This grant aims to bring together countywide partners to strengthen digital access and education, as well as democratize how partners can access technology and navigator resources to meet learners where they need assistance.

Lauren Hirsh, Kurt Oswald, and Karyn Shorter talked about having a retreat for the Library Board, which is currently planned for the afternoon of January 11, 2025. It will be timed to coincide with work on the budget and will focus on funding sustainability and strategic agenda direction.

## **Announcements**

None.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix