

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday December 17, 2024 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Donna Douglas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Ms. Brandi Newry, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Ms. Karyn Shorter, Ms. Robin Templin, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Sarah Balderas and Ms. TaDonne Neal.

Call to Order

Lauren Hirsh called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., a quorum being present.

Introductions

Director Nix introduced David Garcia, the new Senior Communications Specialist.

Approval of the Agenda

Karyn Shorter moved (Winkler) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

None

Staff Presentation

Racine Zackula, Family Literacy Coordinator, provided an update on the book bus, which was launched in November 2023 and has proven to be a successful outreach tool for the Library.

Donna Douglas arrived.

The bus goes where it best benefits the community, and thus spends much of its time in areas remote from library locations and in settings where it is accessible to parents seeking help with their children's reading. It encourages literacy, promotes Library services and programs, and assists community partners that work to provide support and resources for underserved groups. In its first year of operation, it connected with approximately 16,000 residents.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 15, 2024 were presented. Jonathan Winkler corrected the use of October where November was intended in discussion of a future motion in the Finance Committee Report. Jonathan Winkler moved (Neal) to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 19, 2024 were presented. Karyn Shorter moved (Templin) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to receive and file the Semi-Annual Travel report as provided by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Donna Douglas moved (Templin) to approve the October finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$1,316,039.11; and Grant Fund bills of (\$21,384.19), for a total of \$1,294,654.92. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Karyn Shorter moved (Templin) to approve the November finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$774,456.02; and Grant Fund bills of \$24,733.43, for a total of \$799,189.45. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Winkler moved (Douglas) to approve the subscription to Reference Solutions for \$15,991 for 2024-2025 CR.org access. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Committee did not meet.

Operations Committee Report

TaDonne Neal reported that Library leadership has selected Unique Management Services as its preferred vendor for the managed call center that is proposed to assist with handling the projected increase in call volume as library branch renovations conclude.

Kurt Oswald moved to approve the contract with Unique Management Services and authorize the necessary payments to begin implementation of the call center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh reported that a MOU between the Wichita Public Library Foundation and the City of Wichita is being established to create a legacy line item in the budget that will provide continuing funding for maintenance, replacement, and improvements to library branches.

A recently discovered leak in the sunroof at Westlink (part of the original construction, not the

expansion currently underway) is being repaired. At Rockwell it has been discovered that the roof needs to be replaced. Some of the masonry also needs stabilization, as bricks have fallen off a wall.

Shelving for materials should arrive at Westlink in mid-January, with this branch now expected to reopen in March.

To achieve a goal of keeping Alford open during its renovation, staff proposes to set up a micro-library in the meeting room to provide basic services to customers in addition to maintaining service through the drive-up window.

The artists who are creating artwork for Rockwell, Angelou, and Alford are now engaging with the community for feedback.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh directed the Board’s attention to the draft Advocacy Toolkit provided in board packets. This document outlines resources to help promote the importance and value of the Wichita Public Library. Ms. Hirsh asked board members to look through the toolkit and be ready to discuss more in depth in the future.

The board retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location will be announced soon.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – No report.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson reported that the Foundation is currently focusing on the capital campaign, end of year mailings, and rebranding the website and Foundation logos.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – Vickie Everitt reported that the WGS now has 107 members, over 29 of whom joined in the second half of 2024. A new slate of officers has been elected to the WGS Board for 2025.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that from January through March of 2025, LegacyWorks will provide service in the café area of the Advanced Learning Library. Employees participating in this program will roast beans and create specialty coffee drinks. The goal is to provide skills to young adults and eventually bring in enough revenue to support a café manager that will allow expansion of hours.

Talks are being held with the state Department of Children and Family Services to open a location in the newly remodeled Alford branch.

Work is beginning on the City’s 2026 budget and program options.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix