

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

June 21, 2005

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 with the following present: Ms. Donna Aldrich, Ms. Sarah Bagby, Ms. Barbara Baker, Mr. Randy Brown, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Ms. Susan Estes, Mr. Ed Koon, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Evelyn Neier, Ms. Nancy Ogle and Ms. Helen Parli. Absent: Mr. Matt Goolsby and Mr. Tim Moore.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; Mary K. Bird-Guilliams, Collection Development Administrator; Julie Linneman, Programming/Outreach Administrator; Ginny Ray, Customer Service Administrator; Larry Vos, Reference Services Administrator; Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II.

During lunch, Tracie Partridge, Children's Room Section Manager, spoke regarding this year's Summer Reading Club and Teens Read program. The library system has seen a 26% increase in terms of registration numbers for the first week. The total number registered for the first week was 4,170 for Summer Reading and 859 for Teens Read. The numbers show 870 more Summer Reading Club registrations over last year's first week, and 177 more in the Teens Read program. Westlink proved the busiest with 1,457 SRC sign-ups the first week and 267 in Teens Read. Tracie credited the increase to school visits from the youth outreach librarians, as well as the popular theme "Dreams, Dragons and Daring Deeds." The Board thanked Tracie for her presentation.

In the absence of Tim Moore, President, Gerald Layman, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., a quorum being present.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 17, 2005 were presented. Cathy Landwehr moved (Neier) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Susan Estes moved that the Finance report for May be approved as presented on the agenda: Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$514,158.50; 2005 Grant Fund Bills of \$46,000.32; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$1,173.63; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$8,884.31 for a total of \$570,216.76 for the month of May 2005, as well as the Financial Report for May 2005. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Susan Estes moved, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to authorize the Director of Libraries to execute the Interlibrary Loan Development Program (ILDP) participation agreement form for FY2006. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Berner Harris was asked to give an update on the status of the library budget. During the department's budget hearing, there was general support for the Horizon migration, the need to increase the materials budget, and implementing print management on public computer workstations and using the Unique Management small balance program as two ways to both enhance revenue and reduce expenses.

The Director does not expect the City Manager to recommend increasing the cap on fees, reducing branch libraries, or eliminating security at Central. Most of the discussion during her visit was spent on the need for more staff at Westlink, and what the City Council would be 'buying' through each of the program options submitted by the Library. As desperate as we are for materials purchases money, Ms. Berner Harris believes the need for more staff, particularly at Westlink, is a higher priority. The City Manager's recommended budget is scheduled for release to the City Council on July 5.

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, gave the Operations Committee report consisting of information only, no action necessary.

- Staff received a 'Request for Reconsideration' of the children's title "Heather Has Two Mommies." A committee of three individuals looked at reviews of the book and the decision made was that the book is an appropriate holding for our library and is made available in the most appropriate part of our collection.
- The Comotara Branch Manager received a complaint via telephone from an out-of-town patron who was upset that when she was in town on Memorial Day the library was closed. She felt the library should be open on holidays since that is when people from out of town often visit Wichita. She further complained that there should be special policies for people who live outside Wichita, including not having to pay fees and being able to renew items as many times as they want. She was told that as a municipal library, policies are developed with the interests of users from within the taxing district receiving the greatest consideration.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Ed Koon, Chair, gave the Planning & Facilities Committee report.

- Replacement of the roof at Rockwell is underway.
- The Westlink Branch basement resembled a swimming pool after the recent heavy rains. Basement leakage has always been an issue.
- Later this week, we will start a project with the Police Department to do a security audit of the Central Library. This is in response to an employee complaint that we put customers and staff at risk to terrorist attacks through some of our business processes. The Police department experts will help us to find a balance between security and access in a public building.
- Gossen Livingston plans another strategic planning session next week with the City Manager and Ms. Berner Harris.

This was Mr. Koon's last Board meeting, as his eight-year term expires June 30, 2005. He expressed his thanks to the Board and especially the members of the Planning & Facilities Committee that he chaired.

Public Affairs Committee Report

In the absence of Matt Goolsby, Chair, Sarah Bagby gave the Public Affairs Committee Report.

- On June 7, the Maya Angelou Branch was used by the Governor's office for her signing of the Racial Profiling Bill passed by the Legislature earlier this year. Several members of the Sedgwick County legislative delegation attended, along with many leaders from different ethnic groups within the community. More than 100 people attended. Staff from the Governor's office seemed particularly pleased with our support and indicated that they may be contacting us again when they are in need of space for community meetings in the Wichita area. This provided the library with good visibility yet with a minimum amount of activity on our part.
- As the staff presentation showed today, outreach into the community is good for business at the library. A member of our Business & Technology section attended last weekend's Lake Afton Car Show to promote our outstanding auto repair manual collection. More than 1,000 promotional pieces were distributed.
- As of June 14, six Library Board appointments were completed. Board members were urged to contact their Council members if interested in reappointment. More appointments may be made at today's City Council meeting.

Ms. Bagby's eight-year term is also complete at the end of this month. Appreciation was expressed for her years on the Board and she stated it had been interesting to see the progression of leadership of the library system.

Friends of the Library Liaison Report

Helen Parli, Friends of the Library liaison, imparted the following news from the June 9 meeting:

- Bookstore sales were a little down for the month of May but perhaps due to the River Festival events.
- The company that makes the book bags for the Friends of the Library is going to use the bags in their display later this month at the American Library Association conference in Chicago.
- The Senior Wednesday programs are being promoted for the fall.
- The Friends have voted to become a partner in the community coalition celebrating the 85th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As part of those events, Nancy Kassebaum Baker will be speaking at the Hughes Complex on August 26 and Eleanor Clift on October 11.
- A 'Good Samaritan' request of \$39 was denied.
- Membership is 462, with 413 gold cards and 49 regular.

Director of Libraries Report

The Director stated that the after hours use of Central by CBS for a “48 Hours” interview on May 24 with Robert Beattie went very well. Ms. Berner Harris was grateful to Century II maintenance for having an electrician present until 2:00 a.m., and to Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian, for her help. Ms. Berner Harris stated that the negotiation with the producer resulted in a \$2,000 contribution to the Library Foundation, plus flowers delivered to Ms. Heinicke and Ms. Berner Harris the next day. The CBS crew were a delight to work with and very professional and courteous.

Related to the Summer Reading Club, we are using funds from the Levand Trust to have the Self-Help Network from WSU conduct a study on the participants of the SRC utilizing Westlink and Evergreen sites.

The City’s skybox at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium is tentatively reserved Sunday, August 21 for the City Council and Library Board members. This is the day that children who have completed the summer reading program will be attending the game. More information will follow as plans are finalized.

As of this morning, we have a new computer company. SIRSI bought out Dynix, so the company is now called SIRSI-DYNIX. Ms. Berner Harris does not expect any serious complications to result from the merger.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Layman stated that the Nominating Committee recommended by President Tim Moore consists of Helen Parli (Chair), Donna Aldrich and Cathy Landwehr. The Committee will present the proposed slate of officers for 2005-2006 at the August 16 Board meeting.

Announcements

As appreciation for their eight years of service each on the Board, books are being added to the Library collection in honor of Sarah Bagby and Ed Koon. In honor of Mr. Koon, the book purchased was “Complete Guide to Freshwater Fishing.” For Ms. Bagby, the artist biography “William de Kooning” was purchased.

Adjournment

Randy Brown moved (Ogle) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 19, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris
Director of Libraries