

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

January 16, 2001

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, January 16, 2001. Mr. Gillard Cohen, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Mr. Ed Koon, Ms. Rhonda Limon-Lowderman, Mr. Tim Moore, Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Ms. Lois Ruby and Mr. Kent Voth. Absent: Mr. Don Barry, Mr. Carl Bell and Mr. Gerald Layman. Staff present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services; Linda Knupp, Coordinator of Collection Development; Julie Linneman, Coordinator of Programming/Outreach; Ginny Ray, Coordinator of Customer Service; Larry Vos, Coordinator of Reference Services; Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager; Jacque Smith, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II. Also in attendance: Dr. Jim Erickson, President of the Friends of the Library; Carol Nazar, Wichita Public Library Foundation Executive Director; and Brian Silcott, City Budget Analyst, Finance Department.

In the absence of Don Barry, President, Mr. Cohen, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., a quorum being present.

Cyndi Berner Harris introduced Brian Silcott as the library's Budget Analyst from City Hall. Mr. Silcott stated he has been with the City for seven years, starting in the Fire Department, City Manager's Office, and currently the Budget Office. He appreciated being invited to the WPL Board of Directors meeting.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2000 were presented. Tim Moore moved (Ruby) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

A quorum was not present for a Finance Committee meeting today. Therefore, Karl Peterjohn moved (Voth) that Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$515,258.72; Special Fund Bills of \$71,074.08; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$2,968.08 totaling \$589,300.88 for the month of December be approved and payment authorized. Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Chair, moved that the bills and Financial Report be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Peterjohn noted that the December 2000 Financial Report has not been sent from the City. John Ellert distributed copies of his version of the library's preliminary 2000 year-end report.

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Operations Committee Report

None.

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

Sarah Bagby reported on the following items:

Bookmobile: The Design Centre is preparing a presentation and quote for modification of an MTA bus. Mr. Cherches will receive the quote on the modification and compare to buying a new bus. The Design Centre's proposal will be submitted to the City Manager by February 1.

North Side Branch: An exciting possibility has arisen for a north side library. The Evergreen Arts & Crafts Center, located on the corner of 29th and Arkansas, a City facility, is accepting proposals for requests for use. The building is 14,300 sq. ft. The Planning and Facilities Committee and the Director of Libraries looked at the building and encourage the library to make the proposal. There is a mini City Hall in the vicinity. The Board's Strategic Plan for Branch Development identifies the need to expand and/or relocate the Marina Lakes Branch as priority #4. It is possible that this facility might allow the City to accomplish that goal. The Board was additionally reminded of the City's desire for a change for the Minisa Branch. Proposals are due by February 9. On behalf of the Planning and Facilities Committee, Sarah Bagby moved that the Board endorse the concept of exploring with the City of Wichita enhancement of library services by utilizing the Arts & Crafts building at 29th & Arkansas. Mr. Cohen stated this motion fits well with the branch development study under the Board's strategic plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

South Regional Branch: The Naming Committee for the south regional branch met on January 10 and agreed on a recommendation for the name of the branch. The name will be announced on January 23 after consideration by the City Council.

Public Affairs Committee Report

No meeting was held. Kent Voth stated that the committee would be sending information to Board members and to the Friends of the Library regarding issues to advocate in the upcoming legislative session. Library Legislative Day is February 14 in Topeka. Kent Voth will be attending.

President Clinton signed the Children's On-line Protection Act, the mandated filtering of public access Internet in libraries, on December 21. Unless rescinded, the act requires libraries to filter public Internet access or forego federal funds such as erate discounts. Legal challenges are expected.

The State Library cited issues for the upcoming legislative session:

- a bill to establish a statewide network to provide affordable Internet access for all schools and libraries;
- state funding equal to ten percent of the costs of public library and regional library systems operations;
- a legislative task force has recommended the creation of the network system which is called KAN-ED and has introduced Bill #2035.

The Governor has instead recommended cuts in state funding for libraries making participation in Legislative Day even more important this year.

Director of Libraries Report

Ms. Berner Harris reported that one thing we are trying to do locally to be better heard in Topeka is to meet with Sedgwick County library directors. There is a luncheon this Thursday, January 18, at the Haysville Public Library to initiate this purpose.

The Library budget failed for 2000 with salaries particularly overspent by \$100,000. Consideration must be given to the fact that \$14,500 in expenses to Slavin Management for the Director of Libraries search was to come out of savings in the salary budget. Contractuals failed by \$4800.00 because of this fact. Because the Budget Office had promised to cover overages in Personal Services when library staff questioned mid-year reductions in these fund lines as well as the Slavin costs if the salary savings proved not to exist, budget adjustments are being made by the Finance Department to cover the overages.

A second concern the Finance Department has is the number of bills the library pushed through towards the end of the year. The Youth Allocation budget was not issued till late in the year and so essentially spent \$100,000 after September. The budget proposal for 2001 has already been submitted and is pending Finance approval.

WPL's reorganization is underway. Ms. Berner Harris announced to the Board that John Ellert is the newly appointed Coordinator of Support Services. Interviews will be held this Friday for the Electronic Resources Manager. The replacement for Brig McCoy will be supervised by the City Data Center and the position has yet to be reclassified and announced.

Crows have been a problem lately. City departments are working on cleaning the area and trying to find ways to rid the birds from roosting downtown.

The police responded to an anonymous call from the third floor of the Central library on a recent Sunday. The caller said a patron was in the building with a gun. A search was held but no gun was found.

Sheriff's deputies arrived one day wanting to conduct a sting operation in the building.

Ms. Berner Harris has filed all erate applications for the fourth funding year totaling \$69,940 of credit. We qualify for 70% subsidy. The filtering initiative may affect our ability to qualify for erate discounts in the future.

WPL is a partner in the Smart Start Wichita which is part of the initiative of the tobacco settlement.

The 13th Annual African American History celebration is ready for the month of February.

Carol Nazar and Cyndi Berner Harris met last week with Ernie Garcia, Special Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Garcia agreed to help encourage the National Endowment for Humanities to consider the Driscoll funds as part of our challenge grant. He has already talked with Congressman Tiahart's office regarding such.

The Newbery and Caldecott awards were announced at the ALA Midwinter Conference. Ms. Berner Harris was pleased to note that the Children's Room already had multiple copies of the winning books – "The Year Down Yonder" by Richard Peck; and "So You Want To Be President?" by Judith St. George, illustrated by David Small.

An issue of the *Topeka Capitol Journal* was distributed announcing the upcoming expansion of the Topeka Public Library.

Karl Peterjohn asked the Director if WPL had a policy against playing cards in the library. Ms. Berner Harris said no policy was in the Operations Manual but the security guards have been encouraged to discourage card playing.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Sarah Bagby stated that, in 1999, David Small, the illustrator of the winning Caldecott award, visited Watermark Books and painted two drawings on their freshly painted white basement walls.

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Adjournment

Karl Peterjohn moved (Limon-Lowderman) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 20, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries