

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

March 20, 2001

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, March 20, 2001. Mr. Don Barry, President, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Mr. Carl Bell, Mr. Gillard Cohen, Mr. Ed Koon, Mr. Gerald Layman, Mr. Tim Moore and Ms. Lois Ruby. Absent: Ms. Ronda Limon-Lowderman, Mr. Karl Peterjohn and Mr. Kent Voth. 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; and Carol Nazar, Wichita Public Library Foundation Executive Director.

Mr. Barry called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 20, 2001 were presented. Gillard Cohen moved (Moore) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

In the absence of Karl Peterjohn, Gerald Layman gave the Finance Committee Report. Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$453,813.42; Special Fund Bills of \$47,794.58; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$3,969.39 totaling \$505,577.39 for the month of February were presented, as well as the Financial Report for February 2001. Mr. Layman moved that the bills and Financial Report be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

One invoice exceeding \$10,000 required Board approval. Mr. Layman moved that the invoice from Brodart for the annual branch McNaughton subscription in the amount of \$11,268.00 be approved and payment authorized. The service is for April 2001 through March 2002. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) Special Populations grant of \$1,750 for the Wichita Public Library. The purpose of the grant is to translate and print library brochures into Spanish and Vietnamese. Mr. Layman moved that the Special Populations grant be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Tim Moore reported that the Library and City Finance Department reached an agreement on use of the \$100,000 youth allocation grant. The City Council approved the grant at their meeting today, March 20. Therefore, the funds are released for library use.

The library needs to file a new technology plan for certification with the Kansas State Library in order to qualify for Year Four E-rate discounts. A draft of "A Comprehensive Technology Plan for the Wichita Public Library 2001-2004" was distributed to Board members for review before the June deadline. The Operations Committee will review the plan and discuss at next month's Board meeting.

Regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Tim Moore asked the Director when the actual application of filtering software would take place. Cyndi responded that the American Library Association and the ACLU are filing lawsuits against the CIPA bill. There is no indication of postponement of the implementation of the act April 20; however, the FCC does not have the ruling completed. Therefore, we have until October to then state that we intend to start the process of intending to comply. Don Barry stated that we lose the discounts if we do not comply with the ruling. The discount last year was approximately \$40,000. Mr. Barry suggested that we wait as long as possible until the ruling is clear before buying the software necessary to implement filtering. Cyndi stated that even if the legal challenges are unsuccessful, the library can still receive funding for another year simply by certifying that we are beginning the processes needed to develop an Internet Acceptable Use Policy that includes the use of a blocking or filtering technology. Tim Moore noted his opposition to any form of censorship; however, he also noted that, as a matter of stewardship, ultimately we would have to comply with this issue because of the financial concerns. He stated he would be surprised if the Children's Internet Protection Act would be overturned by the Supreme Court.

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

Gillard Cohen, Chair, reported on the following items:

Lionel Alford South Regional Branch: The City Finance department is awaiting word from two citizens who were asked to serve on the architectural selection committee. Once the committee appointments are complete, WPL staff, Public Works, Fire Department and City Manager staff will meet to select the architectural firm. The projected completion date of the branch is scheduled for July 2002.

Bookmobile: The Design Centre will give a presentation to the City Manager's office April 6 regarding a proposal for converting a transit bus into a bookmobile. Any decisions will be reported at the April 17 Board meeting.

North Side Branch: Library staff submitted a proposal to the City for use of the Arts & Crafts Building at 25th and Arkansas, a City facility, as a north side district branch. We are awaiting word from the City regarding their decision.

Public Affairs Committee Report

In Kent Voth's absence, Lois Ruby reported for the Public Affairs Committee. She reminded Board members that the Trustee-Friends Day at the Kansas Library Association Conference is April 5, 2001 in Topeka. WPL will pay registration for Board members who wish to attend.

Ms. Ruby gave an update on the State's budgeting process, also known as the 'slash-and-restore' process. The State House Education Budget Committee recommended \$170,000 from the lottery fund be added to the state aid that was recommended by the House Appropriations Committee. The Budget Committee underscored the importance of libraries as a major educational resource and anticipates that 'alternative monies can be found' to restore an additional \$79,285 in state aid. If funding is not restored in the general appropriations bill, it could be considered in the Omnibus Appropriations session at the end of the legislative session. Ms. Ruby urged Board members to contact their Senators and Representatives to plead for full restoration of state aid funds cut in the Governor's budget, as well as consideration of an increase in state aid funding.

Director of Libraries Report

The 2000 Annual Report was distributed to all Board members.

The Art, Music and Video Section will be hosting the 15th Annual Academy Awards Shorts Programs March 25 and April 1 in the Central Auditorium. Additional showings will be held at the Rockwell Branch March 31 and the Westlink Branch April 7. Out of the thirteen films nominated for Academy Awards Shorts, eleven have been secured. Two films are not available due to exclusive agreements.

In efforts to enhance relationships with other libraries in Sedgwick County, the Haysville Library has been added to our direct interlibrary loan service. There are now four county libraries requesting loans through our online catalog.

Cyndi expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Library for their decision to place \$1,500 on account with the Emporia State University Institute of Continuing Education department for library staff and trustee education. This creates a great opportunity for WPL staff to continue paraprofessional learning and training.

Two training sessions were held this month for WPL staff regarding homeless awareness. People Net is a support agency for the homeless. Their staff distributed brochures and gave very interesting personal accounts of ways to deal with the situations that arise.

Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager, and Cyndi will be participating in the first juvenile mediation this evening at Central. Interfaith Ministries provides this service for juveniles who have committed non-violent crimes. This particular mediation involves a juvenile who participated in the vandalism at the Rockwell Branch library earlier this year.

An agenda item at today's City Council meeting concerns utilizing Channel 7, the City channel, to expand community based programming. Jacque Smith, Special Projects Librarian, was contacted by Mary Knecht, Channel 53, and filming was done to promote library technology use. Promotion of Youth Services will also be done.

Carol Nazar, WPL Foundation Executive Director, and Cyndi met with Donna Kelly, Wichita Area Technology College recently to discuss the library being a satellite for WATC Cisco training programs. This would be done in lieu of our proposal to partner with the Cisco Academy in the Technology Training Center. WATC would provide the instructors and WPL would provide scholarships for the students. If implemented, classes would start in the fall.

WPL has been chosen as a site for the Smithsonian traveling exhibit 'Listening to the Prairie' for May 2002. The exhibit will be listed as an official River Festival event. The exhibit is based on a documentary underwritten by Koch Industries. The documentary will be aired on PBS in April.

Cyndi relayed three items for the Board to deal with in upcoming meetings:

1. A citizen has contacted WPL staff regarding moving into the Arts & Crafts Building. She will be writing a letter to Don Barry that we will copy for all Board members in the April Board packets. She will be present at the April 17 Board meeting to give her perspective.
2. The 2001-2004 Technology Plan will need to be adopted after the Operations Committee reviews and recommendations.
3. Cyndi's six-month probationary period as Director of Libraries will be completed by the April 17 Board meeting. Don Barry noted that the Board would move into Executive Session at the April 17 Board meeting to discuss this issue.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

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Announcements

Gerald Layman wished to compliment the outreach program of the library, noting the tremendous job outreach staff has done as noted in the Director's February monthly report. The Board agreed, noting that the outreach program significantly expands service to additional agencies such as daycare centers, Head Start programs, home childcare providers and schools.

Don Barry wished to report that he will buy the lunches for the May 15 Board meeting. The May meeting will be Mr. Barry's last meeting as a member of the WPL Board of Directors. He will have completed an eight-year term as of June 2001. He will be out of town during the June 19 Board meeting.

Adjournment

Gillard Cohen moved (Layman) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 17, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries