

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

May 15, 2001

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, May 15, 2001. Mr. Don Barry, President, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with the following present: Mr. Carl Bell, Mr. Gillard Cohen, Mr. Ed Koon, Mr. Gerald Layman, Mr. Tim Moore, Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Ms. Lois Ruby and Mr. Kent Voth. Absent: Ms. Sarah Bagby and Ms. Ronda Limon-Lowderman. Staff present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services; 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: Lola Howard, newly-elected President of North River Bend Neighborhood Association; Carla Smith, Principal of Cloud Elementary School; and Wendell Turner, President, North Chisholm Creek Neighborhood Association.

Today's meeting was Don Barry's last as a Board member and President. He will have completed his eight-year term limit as of June 30, 2001 and will be out of town at the June Board meeting. A gift was presented to Mr. Barry from the WPL staff and Board members in appreciation of his work and dedication to the Board.

Mr. Barry called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Introductions

Lola Howard, Carla Smith and Wendell Turner were introduced as interested citizens and will be speaking during the Public Comment section of the meeting regarding the north side library expansion.

Public Comment

Lola Howard, Carla Smith and Wendell Turner were present at today's meeting. They presented letters and spoke in support of the proposed library site at 25th & Arkansas. Copies of the ten letters of support were given to all Board members. The three north side residents believe the City needs a north side branch and perceive the proposed site to be safe and a perfect location. Cloud Elementary is the largest elementary school in Wichita with a total of 880 students. Carla Smith, Principal, stated that 93% of the school children come from low-income families. The site could help families become familiar with the whole process of using a public library, checking out books and developing a deeper habit of reading. Mr. Barry thanked them for their comments and stated it is the Board's hope and intention that a north regional branch be established. The goal is to establish the

branch at the same level as Rockwell and Westlink in terms of staff, collection and reference materials. The Board is awaiting word from the City regarding funding.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 17, 2001 were presented. Carl Bell moved (Cohen) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$420,973.20; Grant Fund Bills of \$51,925.73; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$5,032.48 totaling \$477,931.41 for the month of April were presented, as well as the Financial Report for April 2001. Also presented were Operating Fund Bills from 2000 in the amount of \$6,827.18. Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Chair, moved that the bills and Financial Report be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

One invoice exceeding \$10,000, required Board approval. The invoice is from epixtech, Inc., for hardware and software maintenance for the Dynix system for July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002, in the amount of \$57,744.74. Mr. Peterjohn moved that the epixtech invoice be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Marina Lakes Branch Library lease extension was reviewed. The lease agreement dated February 8, 2000 between the Wichita Shopping Center Associates and the Wichita Public Library may exercise the option of extending the term of the lease from April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002 at a monthly rental rate of \$2,000 plus \$269.00 in taxes. The City Property Manager, John Philbrick, had been contacted by the Director and advised approval of the lease extension. If the proposed north side branch site at 25th and Arkansas is approved, the timing for remodeling and relocation will carry through this one-year lease extension period. Mr. Peterjohn moved, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to approve extending the Marina Lakes Library lease through the date of March 31, 2002 at the rate stipulated. **Motion carried unanimously.**

John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services, composed a new report that shows monthly expenditures and balances of special grant funds.

The salary recommendation for the Director of Libraries, Cynthia Berner Harris, was reviewed. An executive session for this item was not deemed necessary. Mr. Peterjohn moved, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to recommend a salary increase of approximately five- percent for Ms. Berner Harris to \$69,000. The salary increase would be effective May 26, 2001 for one year. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Tim Moore stated that a temporary plan is in place at Planeview where City staff 'patrol' the library so that middle-school students can again have access to the Planeview Branch Library at the end of their school day. Continued work with the principal of Colvin

Elementary will be required to ensure that a more permanent arrangement will protect ongoing access for these youth during the next school year.

The Kansas State Library certified the Wichita Public Library's Technology Plan, which was approved at the April Board meeting. Jeff Hixon, Director of Library Information Technology, gave the plan a rave review saying it "is an excellent example of what a technology plan should be."

Library staff met with the City Prosecutor, the Library's assigned attorney, and a Detective from the Wichita Police Department regarding the library patron who has obtained multiple cards for herself and her children and used them to accrue thousands of dollars of outstanding fees and fines. The District Attorney will be consulted by the Detective to request filing of multiple felony fraud counts for the false applications for library accounts. Should the DAs office decline, the City will prosecute under a City Code citing 'fraud in procuring library privileges' which would be multiple misdemeanor counts.

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

Gillard Cohen gave the Planning and Facilities Committee report.

Lionel Alford South Regional Branch: Gossen Livingston was selected for architectural design services of the library and five fire stations. Details of the contract for services should be finalized within the next four to eight weeks. The City's goal is to open the library no later than the first week of April 2003.

Bookmobile: John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services, is researching costs as to expenses of current bookmobiles in operation in other library systems throughout the country, as well as costs related to buying a new bus versus converting an old MTA bus.

North Side Branch: Ms. Berner Harris met with the Minisa Thursday evening book club on May 3 to provide them with factual information regarding the library's investigation of the Arts & Crafts facility as a district branch for north Wichita. A summary of the concerns of club members was included in Board packets.

The Public Works Department has secured the amendment of a contract with Randall Steiner, the architect who has done all the design services to date on the Arts & Crafts facility. The purpose of the contract is to obtain a more detailed design of the library space that can be used in discussions with neighborhoods impacted by the potential change in service. Carol Nazar, WPL Foundation Executive Director, will help in finding private partners to help provide start-up costs for a community meeting room, and additional furniture and equipment needed for the larger space. Inventories will held for Marina Lakes and Minisa Branches that will determine what may be moved to the new site.

Also, in connection with the Arts & Crafts site, there is an empty bowling alley immediately west of the building. The City has previously denied a zoning change that would enable the property owner to put a bar in this building. The owner has requested use of the building as a rental area for receptions, graduation parties, and so forth. The

Neighborhood Assistant for this area has requested library staff meet with the owner of the property on June 1 at Evergreen Center to discuss his proposal. A decision on this site could have a critical impact on the proposed library branch site. Cyndi Berner Harris and Don Barry will attend the meeting.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Don Barry stated with regret that Kent Voth would be leaving the Board at the end of the term, June 30, 2001. Unfortunately, job and travel scheduling conflicts mandate the choice. Don Barry thanked Kent for his past leadership on the Friends Board and, currently, on the WPL Board of Directors.

Kent Voth, Chair, reported that the State Legislature includes a reduction of \$181,000 in state grants in aid for libraries. WPL's ILDP (Interlibrary Loan Development Program) would not be affected. The Kansas Library Association is urging individuals to contact the Governor to consider vetoing the reduction in the amended budget. The telephone answering machine for the Governor is 785-296-3232; email address: governor@ink.org.

CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) became effective April 20. Libraries need to certify that they have Internet safety plans in place on October 28, 2001. Libraries must demonstrate they are taking steps toward implementing the filtering technology. Cost quotes on filtering are in the process of being obtained. Meanwhile, the American Library Association's legal counsel is exploring options that might delay these obligations until the following year.

The Director has sent invitations to tour library facilities to new City Council members Carl Brewer and Sharon Fearey.

Director of Libraries Report

Cyndi Berner Harris noted that the potential loss of state aid funds by the State Legislature approximates \$18,000 for the Wichita Public Library.

Regarding CIPA, staff is working toward the safety policy and has contacted filtering vendors for price quotes. Funding for filters has been included as a program option with the budget submission.

Staff-wise, Cyndi was happy to report that this week is the first for Bill Brown, as one of our two new Information Technology staff people. Bill has done tech support for Nation's Bank and for several school districts. Interviews will be held shortly for the second IT position.

Interviews were held for the replacement of Linda Knupp, Coordinator of Collection Development. A decision will be announced later this week.

Jacque Franke, Special Projects Librarian, will be leaving WPL as of May 25, 2001 to pursue a professional career at KAKE-TV.

The City wants to fast track integration of the library's technology software into the City system. Discussions continue regarding this subject as the City data center staff seldom talk with customers regarding service. Cyndi will be working with City staff to ensure a higher level of customer service during and after this transition period of IT staff being under the City's Data Center.

The Technology Training Center has contracted its first fee-based training with the Kansas Museum Association, which is holding a statewide conference here in November. Training will consist of grant writing and use of PCs and the Internet. We are hoping this is the first of many contracts we will be able to assist within the community.

Cyndi will be meeting with area librarians of Sedgwick County on May 31 and will continue to pursue common interests and projects.

Cyndi was selected as a member of the City's BRC (Budget Review Committee) which will meet May 21-25 to discuss all City department budgets.

The Library participates in a resource called the Bibliographical Center for Research that helps provide technology to twelve states. BCR provides our OCLC cataloging access and interlibrary loan. They have a Board of Trustees to which Cyndi has been elected to a two-year term. She will be out of the office for one day every four months attending these meetings in Denver.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

All Board member terms expire June 30, 2001. Don Barry and Kent Voth will not be on the Board after this date. Mr. Barry encouraged all other Board members to contact their City Council representative and ask for re-appointment.

The Nominating Committee will be named at the June 19 Board meeting and will make their report at the August 21 Board meeting.

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Adjournment

Tim Moore moved (Ruby) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 19, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries