

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
February 21, 2006

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 with the following present: Ms. Donna Aldrich, Ms. Barbara Baker, Mr. Tom Engelmann, Ms. Susan Estes, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Evelyn Neier, Ms. Nancy Ogle and Mr. Rodger Woods. Absent: Mr. Randy Brown, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Mr. Tim Moore, Ms. Helen Parli and Ms. Marge Zakoura-Vaughan.

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

During lunch, Kendall Durst and Sarah Shetlar, Art, Music & Video Section, talked about the upcoming 20th Annual Academy Award Shorts Program. The three categories of films are animated, live action and documentary shorts. The kick-off event takes place in the Murdock Theatre at the 20th Century Club, 536 North Broadway on March 4. Ms. Shetlar stated there were 14 films nominated this year – 5 live action, 5 animated and 4 documentaries. A big coup for us this year is Pixar not only contributing their film but also sending a technical director to speak at the opening event. While sometimes difficult to obtain the films due to time and language differences, we are proud to once again be the venue for the nominated films. All shows are free, open to the public and have been very well attended in the past. Aside from the opening event, programs will be March 5 at Alford; March 6 at Westlink; March 7 at Evergreen; March 9 at Rockwell and March 11 at Central. After the meeting, Board members were treated to a viewing of one of the nominees – “9” by Shane Acker Production.

In the absence of Tim Moore, President, Gerald Layman, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., a quorum being present.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 17, 2006 were presented. Barbara Baker moved (Ogle) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Susan Estes moved that the Finance report for January be approved as presented on the agenda: Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$487,813.96; 2005 Grant Fund Bills of \$19,353.52; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$15,019.53; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$3,182.70 for a total of \$525,369.71 for the month of January 2006, as well as the Financial Report for January 2006. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, gave the Operations Committee report.

Questions have arisen regarding the city's loitering ordinance, the definition of 'loitering' and its ability to be effectively enforced in a public library setting. The ordinance even includes words such as 'not sauntering' along with no loitering. The Director is meeting with homeless service providers and Wichita Police Department representatives on Monday, February 28 to discuss the issue. Ms. Berner Harris will raise the issue of lunches being delivered in front of Central and the difficulties that result when agencies use the library as the pickup location for their transportation services. Ms. Ogle asked other Board members for their opinions. Tom Engelmann believes the discretion of a police officer would correctly enforce the ordinance. Evelyn Neier cited the issue as a community-wide one, where there should be another alternative for the homeless population rather than the library. Mr. Engelmann believed that fervently enforcing the code would incur more costs than gain. The Board felt that the Director meeting with homeless providers and the police department was a step in the right direction to addressing this issue.

Staff met with Gerald Domotrovic to review his request for inclusion of holocaust revisionist materials in our collection. While affirming our commitment to include materials on a variety of perspectives, staff denied two titles he recommended as falling short of the requirements of our collection development policy. Mr. Domotrovic shared recommendations for two additional titles, one of which was found already owned by the library. The second title was determined to meet our selection criteria and has been placed on order.

During Legislative Day, February 16, staff and several Board members worked to encourage the identification of libraries as sites included in the exempt category from the conceal/carry law if approved by the legislature and the Governor. City Law will work with us to prepare testimony for the House Federal & State Affairs committee to have the library exemption added into the bill. The City's lobbyist will also work for us on this matter.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Barbara Baker, Chair, gave the Planning & Facilities Committee report.

Gossen Livingston remains at work on the strategic master planning process. They are analyzing blueprints of Central and working to determine space needs over the next decade. Westlink, Central and a bookmobile were identified as the top priorities at a recent meeting of the Director and members of the Planning & Facilities Committee.

We are working with the Public Works Department to start refurbishing the existing public seating throughout the Central Library.

We are also in conversation with the Police Department about ways to rearrange tables and chairs on the first floor of Central in order to improve security.

Genealogy has run out of space for their books. A volunteer, who is also working on her library science degree, has proposed re-cataloging changes for the genealogy collection. The Director has asked staff to consider developing a master plan to make access to the materials easier to locate. This might include the re-cataloging project, and may also include the addition of more shelving and perhaps shifting in/out of the Driscoll room and our closed stacks areas.

Ms. Berner Harris added that she gave feedback from the January Board meeting's presentation on the telephone survey to Gossen Livingston. They will have a first draft of a report available at next month's Board meeting. Ms. Berner Harris met with the City Manager recently. One of the topics discussed was the possible expansion of Century II and subsequent parking problems. She conveyed the Planning & Facilities, and Board's, feelings that we have no interest in sharing parking with a convention center. The City Manager seemed to be very understanding of this concern.

Public Affairs Committee Report

In the absence of Randy Brown, Chair, Cynthia Berner Harris gave the Public Affairs Committee report.

Ms. Berner Harris thanked those Board members who accompanied her to Legislative Day in Topeka on February 16. A list was distributed identifying KLA 2006 legislative priorities that included the following:

- The House Appropriations Committee approved a \$75,000 enhancement for Talking Books service. The Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee recommends this request be considered as part of the Omnibus session.
- Another request of the State Library was \$265,000 for a statewide access to tutor.com, an online service that provides tutoring through the State Library card. The Senate subcommittee voted to endorse the Governor's recommendation. The House voted to defer until the Omnibus Bill.
- Senate Bill 549 would combine the Kansas Library Advisory Commission and the Kansas Library Network Board to create the State Library of Kansas Board. The bill appears to have no opposition.
- House Bill 2581 provides the tax levy be based on preliminary abstract property values rather than final values for regional library systems. The bill was amended to require libraries to restrict access to certain videos and DVDs. KLA does not support these amendments. The Johnson County Public Library estimates a cost of \$100,000 to comply with the media circulation requirements of the bill. Ms. Berner Harris noted that she would expect a significant cost for our library as well.

- The conceal carry law (Senate Bill 418) would authorize licensing to carry concealed firearms. The language of the bill does not include libraries as places where guns are prohibited. Representatives will be asked to insert 'libraries' in the language of the bill, as it does include colleges, universities, state office buildings and city halls.

Friends of the Library Liaison Report

In the absence of Helen Parli, Friends of the Library Liaison, Cynthia Berner Harris gave the following information:

- Friends Board of Governors voted to submit a challenge grant application to the Wichita Community Foundation to raise money in a 3 to 1 match. They would like to raise \$60,000 within one year, which would hopefully be approved in June. Proceeds would be restricted to marketing programs and promotion of services.
- Three Good Samaritan requests were approved.
- Membership continues at just above 500.
- The Legislature has been asked to take off sales tax for bookstore sales of more than one per year, but as of now there is not much interest in pursuing this request.

Director of Libraries Report

A corrected page one of the January 2006 statistics that attach to the Director of Libraries monthly report was distributed.

The 2005 Annual Report was distributed.

Normally by this time of year, the Board has been presented department goals. Due to a new process of goal setting by the City, we are currently working on them. Basically, we are moving towards four new projects for the library:

- 1) Increase the value of library service provided to the community;
- 2) Complete migration from Dynix to the Horizon automation system;
- 3) Complete a master plan for library facilities; and
- 4) Be a lead agency in presenting the first Kansas Book Festival to be held September 29-30 at the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. The event focuses on Kansas authors and illustrators.

The Department of Health and Human Services has notified us that we will be the site of another regional bus tour regarding the Medicare prescription plan on Friday, March 10.

Forms were included in Board packets for members who would like to attend any of the KLA Tri-Conference 2006 to be held at Century II April 4-7.

Ms. Jean Hatfield has been appointed as the Alford branch manager. Her starting date is February 27. She comes to us from the Johnson County library system, where she has held a variety of positions including work as a children's librarian, involvement in system-wide programming, supervision of branches and many other administrative assignments. She is a past president of both the Kansas Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association and currently serves on the American Library Association's Newbery Committee.

Donna Aldrich noted that circulation was up at Orchard for the month of January and asked what that might mean. Ms. Berner Harris noted that last January was the ice storm that might have affected the comparative data with that month of last year, but that as a percentage of overall circulation, Orchard has been performing well over the past several months, as have many of our branch library locations.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Susan Estes moved (Aldrich) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 21, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris
Director of Libraries