

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

February 20, 2001

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, February 20, 2001. Mr. Don Barry, President, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Mr. Carl Bell, Mr. Gillard Cohen, Mr. Ed Koon, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Rhonda Limon-Lowderman and Mr. Karl Peterjohn. Absent: Mr. Tim Moore, Ms. Lois Ruby 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; Larry Vos, Coordinator of Reference Services; 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 12:05 p.m.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 16, 2001 were presented. Gillard Cohen moved (Bell) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$311,800.21; Special Fund Bills of \$24,353.17; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$291,160.08 totaling \$627,313.46 for the month of January were presented, as well as the Financial Reports for December 2000 and January 2001. Mr. Peterjohn noted that the reason the Memorial & Gift Fund Bills is significantly higher this month is that a check from Christie's East for the sale of the Driscoll Piracy collection was made out to the Wichita Public Library in the amount of \$289,753.50. The check was deposited in the Friends of the Library Gift and Memorial account and, in turn, a check was written to the Wichita Public Library Foundation. Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Chair, moved that the bills and Financial Reports be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

In the absence of Tim Moore, Ed Koon spoke on behalf of the Operations Committee. A proposal for use of the \$100,000 youth allocation was submitted to the City but not approved by the Finance Department. Revisions were made and the proposal was resubmitted.

Mr. Koon stated that the WPL Foundation wishes to purchase a display case and plaque for the Driscoll Piracy collection pieces that the library retained. Mr. Koon moved on behalf of the Operations Committee that the Board approve the Foundation donating a case and plaque to the library for the purpose of recognizing the Driscoll Piracy collection. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

Gillard Cohen, Chair, reported on the following items:

South Regional Branch: The City Council approved the Naming Committee's recommendation, of which Don Barry was Chair, to name the new South Regional Branch in memory of Lionel Alford. The City has accepted seven requests for proposals for architects for the construction of the south branch library and five fire stations. At present, we are waiting for the City Manager to appoint a selection committee to review proposals and select the architect.

Bookmobile: The Bookmobile project is on hold since the City Manager's office has yet to receive final details from the Design Centre on their proposal for converting a transit bus into a bookmobile. The Design Centre's proposal was due February 1, but has not been received to date. When the City Manager receives the quote, he will compare to buying a new bus.

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. The proposal deadline was February 9. The City will review all proposals received. Gerry Layman wished to express a few concerns regarding the proposal. He felt the location would be difficult to access, particularly for Minisa patrons if Minisa would close, and that the area has no other businesses which he believes would be a detriment for patrons. An alternative might be a location in the Marina Lakes shopping center, larger than the current Marina Lakes branch library. He feels that 21st Street will become an even higher traffic area. Don Barry thinks a safety factor and collections should be the main concerns. Patrons should feel comfortable coming to the branch library. Sarah Bagby voiced that there are advantages to having a freestanding facility as opposed to one in a high commerce area. Mr. Barry noted that there would be a mini City Hall in the vicinity. He also had noted to the City Manager that the library goals could be advanced a couple years by making the north side branch a regional type facility, as the 14,300 square foot facility would be comparable to Rockwell and Westlink. Gillard Cohen opined that a freestanding facility is nice instead of being lost in a shopping center, not knowing whom the neighbor next door may be. Karl Peterjohn felt the volume of usage important. If the proposal is rejected, the Board will consider alternatives for the north side.

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Public Affairs Committee Report

Karl Peterjohn was present for Legislative Day at the State Capitol on February 15. Cyndi Berner Harris and three other WPL Librarians were also present. Contacts were made with legislators at the Kansas Library Association sponsored luncheon. Mr. Peterjohn felt there was a good turnout from the Kansas library community.

Director of Libraries Report

Before the Director's report, Don Barry wished to read a letter from Lois Ruby, who could not be present at today's meeting. Mr. Barry read the following paragraph from the letter: "I want to take a minute to tell you and the Board about one of our staff members. Yesterday I had the opportunity to attend a session given by Julie Linneman at the Partners in Reading Conference. Julie's enthusiasm for children's literature sparked us all as she book talked a huge variety of titles suitable for third-graders through fifth-graders. What's more, her knowledge of books and children and her artful professionalism spoke well for the Wichita Public Library, as did the beautiful, whimsical and poignant books from the Wichita Public Library collection, which she brought along to share with us. How fortunate we are."

Cyndi Berner Harris reported on the many programs occurring during the month of February. The Partners in Reading Conference was a partnership with KMUW. Julie Linneman played a big part in the conference and set up remote registrations for library cards.

February also held a week's worth of programs honoring Black History month, with African American programs held in all parts of the community.

Last Saturday held a kickoff for a book discussion club at the Westlink Branch library. Jacque Smith, Special Projects Librarian, had attended and stated there was a small but enthusiastic crowd present.

The City is one of the kickoff agencies for the United Way drive this year. As part of that, the City held a book fair last week. Julie Linneman coordinated a remote registration for library cards at this event of two days.

The Academy Award nominations were announced last week. Art, Music & Video staff is working on obtaining the films for the annual Oscar Shorts event.

A follow-up of Legislative Day, February 15, was given. One issue of concern was House Bill 2108. Cyndi was prepared to give her two-page testimony but the time expired. Cyndi learned that the history of HB 2108 is based on a policy by the Topeka-Shawnee County library subscribing to Playboy magazine which is made available to anyone 14 or older. A patron had expressed concern about this policy to a legislator and thus was the initial start of HB 2108. The Topeka-Shawnee County library has since decided to review their policy and, therefore, it is likely that HB 2108 is dead. The second issue was to address the potential budget cut recommended by the Governor in state aid to libraries. There is confusion over the status of revenues. Karl Peterjohn stated that the state of the State budget will be better refined in April.

Carol Nazar, Wichita Public Library Foundation Executive Director, brought Cyndi good news. The Endowment distribution for 2001 is \$134,149.38. This will be a huge addition to our budget and we are thankful to the Foundation. Also, we have been awarded a grant that Carol had written to Cargill that will enable translation and printing of library brochures into Spanish and Vietnamese.

Cyndi attended a meeting at Emporia State University on February 8 as a member of the Advisory Council for the Library School's Institute for Continuing Education (ICE). The Library School in Emporia has recognized that there are no resources for public library trustees and are planning to start training programs for them.

At this time, Don Barry wished to speak of the appointment process. All Board member appointments will expire as of June 30, 2001. Don Barry will have served eight years, the term limit for a Board member. He asked that it is not too soon to contact your City Council member and express your desire to remain on the Board. He also asked that Board members consider other possible good recruits and contact him with names.

A copy of the Kansas Library Association Membership Directory for 2000-2001 was distributed to Board members.

Three nominations have been sent to KLA for the 2000 Kansas Friends Award. The nominations are the Friends of the Wichita Public Library, Chapter large category; Stephen Starch, Individual category; and Heidi Dressler Kelly, Local Historian, for the New Professional award.

A copy of a draft of the 2000 Annual Report was distributed, composed by Jacque Smith.

Since the library attained the Internet, we have used Southwind Internet for access. Southwind is no longer in business. They were sold to Earthlink which has decided to close the local office. Cyndi stated that this might be detrimental for our local support.

Linda Knupp, Coordinator of Collection Development, will be leaving the Wichita Public Library effective April 20. She will be taking a position with the Manhattan, Kansas Public Library.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Gillard Cohen moved (Peterjohn) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries