

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

February 20, 2007

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 with the following present: Ms. Donna Aldrich, Ms. Barbara Baker, Mrs. Susan Estes, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Mr. Rodger Woods, Mr. Tim Moore, Ms. Evelyn Neier, Ms. Helen Parli, Mr. Tom Engelmann, Mr. Randy Brown, Ms. Nancy Ogle, and Ms. Marge Zakoura-Vaughan. Absent: Ms. Jane Eshelman.

Staff Present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; Mary K. Bird-Guilliams, Collection Development Administrator; John Ellert, Support Services Administrator; Jean Hatfield, Alford Regional Library Manager; Michelle Enke, Local History Librarian; Julie Linneman, Programming/Outreach Administrator; Larry Vos, Reference Services Administrator; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; Seif K. Al-Shaer, Administrative Assistant; and Jennifer Allen, Administrative Aide II.

Guests: David Frain, Executive Director, Wichita Public Library Foundation and Myrna Hudson, League of Women Voters.

Jean Hatfield, Alford Regional Library Manager, gave the staff presentation. Cynthia Berner Harris introduced Jean and stated that she has been with the Library for about a year and is on the Newbery selection committee, which is a very prestigious honor. Jean spoke about the Newbery Committee and stated that she was elected to the committee two years ago. She went on to explain that half of the committee is elected and the other half is appointed. There are 15 people on the committee and they are chosen from all over the United States. All discussions of the committee are 100% confidential. She stated that they chose a winner and three honor books out of the over 500 books received. To be eligible, the author must be an American citizen or live in the United States and the book must be published in the United States first. The winner is "The Higher Power of Lucky" by Susan Patron and the honor books are "Rules" by Cynthia Lord, "Penny from Heaven" by Jennifer Holm, and "Hattie Big Sky" by Kirby Larson. She explained that the Newbery award is given for the most distinguished book for children with children being defined as up to age 14. She also stated that "Flotsam" by David Wiesner was the Caldecott winner, which is given for illustrations.

Tim Moore, President, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., a quorum being present.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 20, 2007 were presented. Susan Estes moved (Baker) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Jerry Layman moved that the Finance report for January 2007 and the bills be approved as presented on the agenda: General Fund Bills in the amount of \$493,881.02; 2007 Grant Fund Bills of \$24,744.25; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$29,260.23; and Gift & Memorial Fund Bills of \$3,652.29 for a total of \$551,837.79. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Layman stated that there were some proposed budget revisions for grant projects and moved that they be approved as recommended by staff: 2006 State Grants in Aid (\$2,358.89 for materials); 2006 SCKLS Grant Budgets (\$2,188.59 for materials and \$122 for supplies); 2002 SCKLS Grant (\$4,940.04); 2003 SCKLS Grant (\$4,053.47 for materials); 2005 ILDP Grant (\$1,991.94 for materials); and 2005 State Aid (\$525.07 for materials). **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Layman moved that Child Start be refunded an additional \$398.49 for the rent that was paid above and beyond 2006 actual expenses for the space at Evergreen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Layman next discussed the proposed budget submissions. He reviewed both the 2008-2009 Service Plans for the Planeview Community Library and for Library Operations. Mr. Layman moved (Estes) to make a formal endorsement of presenting the budget and service plans to the City Manager. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, gave the Operations Committee report.

Ms. Ogle reviewed the proposed changes to policies REF-005 and REF-005.1 that would restructure the current fee schedule and bring it more in line with what other facilities are charging. She moved that the committee adopt the new fee schedule. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Evelyn Neier, Chair, gave the Planning & Facilities Committee report:

- The meeting with Leo Casados from Butler Community College and Teresa Rupp from Child Start over BCC's request for office space within the Evergreen library building was successful. An agreement in concept has been reached, although a timeline has not been set. News of this partnership has been shared with Councilwoman Fearey and State Representative Garcia, both of whom were very enthusiastic about it.
- No progress has been made on trying to manage parking at the Angelou branch during WSU basketball games.
- The snows of January raised awareness of the lack of a good plan to ensure that parking lots and sidewalks in branch libraries receive snow removal services in a timely fashion (or at all). Without the snow-shoveling efforts of staff in several of our locations, access would have been even worse. As it was, we had numerous complaints and a few falls and minor injuries reported by customers.
- The rearranging of the first floor of the Central Library has been scheduled for the week of March 26.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Randy Brown and Cynthia Berner Harris gave the Public Affairs Committee report:

- Life has been busy for libraries in the halls of the Capitol. There has been surprising success with requested enhancements to the State Library Budget. On the Senate side, there appears to be support for funding a statewide courier, promotion of the Talking Books program and a "refer to omnibus" for additional funding for the state data center. All of these have some direct benefit to Wichita Public Library. Representative McLeland is the chair of the budget subcommittee on the House side that will hear library requests. He has expressed a willingness to help craft a proposal that might ensure better funding for statewide licensing of databases.
- Beyond money, the board consolidation bill (S67) passed the Senate 38-0 and is awaiting hearing in the House. There are initiatives in discussion that could increase sales tax exemption opportunities for the Friends of the Library. The library community's message of concern about proposed efforts to expand the constituency groups using the Kan-Ed network has been acknowledged and supported by many key legislators in both houses. A bill (H2088) relating to limiting access by sex offenders to places like parks, swimming pools, recreation centers and libraries had a tough first hearing and has gone back to a rewrite by the Park & Recreation Association and the Department of Corrections. We are watching with interest to see if libraries will be retained in the language of a revised bill. Finally, H2489, a filtering bill, was introduced earlier this week. It says that public schools and libraries will filter Internet access to minors. Board members, officers or employees who willfully neglect or refuse shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and subject to fines. At last check, the bill has been assigned to a committee but is not yet scheduled for hearing.
- The Library submitted a nomination of Ron and Sherryl Nutt of KCTU for the Mountain Plains Library Association's News Media Support Award, citing their ongoing library segment on their noon show each Friday. They have been selected to receive the award.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Helen Parli gave the following information:

- Two Good Samaritan requests were granted.
- The Volunteer luncheon at Botanica is scheduled for April 16.
- Membership is 573 (8 Platinum, 535 Gold, and 30 regular).
- The next meeting will be held March 8, 2007.

Library Foundation – The next meeting will be held February 22, 2007.

Wichita Genealogical Society – Barbara Baker stated the WGS quarterly meeting was this past Saturday, February 17.

Director of Libraries Report

The Master Plan is complete. Copies are ready to give to the City Council and to put out in branches. The plan includes the entire history of the planning process with the exception of the research process, which is documented in reports from The Research Partnership.

The Library is a member of the Urban Library Council, an organization for libraries that serve cities with populations of 100,000 or more. "Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development," is the most recent research report from the ULC. Copies were provided to board members.

In December, we were able to install people counters in all of our locations. In January, more than 95,000 people visited our libraries. This information will be added to the monthly reports.

Ms. Berner Harris pointed out the invitation that was included in packets for "See Our Shorts", a special screening of the Academy Award nominated films. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28.

House Bill 2050 was discussed. This is a bill that designates English as the official language of Kansas and would require special reporting of expenditures involved with providing materials or services in languages other than English.

Workstation timing and print management software has been installed on public access computers.

We have received a grant from the American Library Association for "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature." The discussion series will be presented this fall.

The Wichita Public Library is going to be partnering with Books for Life, a component of Trees for Life, in developing training materials for the libraries being developed in third world countries.

The Wichita Genealogical Society has put together a proposal for rearranging the Lawrence and Lucile Wulfmeyer Center to allow for added shelving and easier access to materials by researchers.

Unfinished Business

Randy Brown, in cooperation with the League of Women Voters, will be doing a one-hour broadcast at 6:30 pm on March 14, which is Sunshine Day, at the First United Methodist Church.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Randy Brown moved (Aldrich) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 20, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris
Director of Libraries