

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

April 16, 2002

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, April 16, 2002. Mr. Gillard Cohen, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Ms. Barbara Baker, Mr. Randy Brown, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Mr. Ed Koon, Ms. Catherine Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Ronda Limon-Lowderman, Ms. Nancy Ogle, and Ms. Helen Parli. Absent: Mr. Tim Moore, Mr. Karl Peterjohn and Ms. Lois Ruby. Staff present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; Mary K. Bird-Guilliams, Coordinator of Collection Development; John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services; Julie Linneman, Coordinator of Programming/Outreach; Ginny Ray, Coordinator of Customer Service; Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager; and Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian. Also in attendance: Mr. Brian Silcott, City Budget Analyst.

During lunch, John Ellert, Coordinator of Support Services, reported on the status of the library's budget submittal. Each City department submits their 2002 Revised/2003 Adopted/2004 Proposed budgets at this time of year. The City is requiring a four-percent budget reduction scenario from every department for 2003. Six program options will be submitted for 2002-2004. They are:

1. Evergreen Branch operating costs
2. Alford Branch operating costs
3. Increase in insurance charge back from City
4. IT/IS Integration
5. Replace Central Library public seating
6. Required 4% reduction scenario

The Budget Office will review the budget, submit to the BRC (Budget Review Committee), and then to the City Manager for recommendation to the City Council. The City Council holds public hearings and adopts approved budgets in August. Mr. Cohen thanked John Ellert for his informative presentation to the Board.

In the absence of Tim Moore, President, Mr. Cohen, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., a quorum being present.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 19, 2002 were presented. Gerald Layman moved (Bagby) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

In the absence of Karl Peterjohn, Chair, Gerald Layman presented the Finance Committee report. Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$583,807.25; Grant Fund Bills of \$67,758.02; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$2,584.36 totaling \$654,149.63 for the month of March 2002 were presented. Mr. Layman moved that the bills for March 2002 be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, reported that WPL staff is ready to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). If CIPA is passed, mandating filtering by July 1, 2002, the necessary equipment and filtering subscriptions will be purchased for immediate implementation.

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

Ronda Limon-Lowderman gave the Planning and Facilities Committee report as follows:

- North Branch: The City Manager has approved "Evergreen" as the name for the North District Branch per the recommendation of the Library Board of Directors. The City is soliciting bids for remodeling the building. The pre-bid meeting with potential contractors will be held today at 1:30 p.m. Project bid proposals will be opened on April 26.
- Alford Branch: The date of 'substantial completion' for the Branch has been set for March 17, 2003, with an opening date of April 1, 2003. Staff met yesterday with a furniture and equipment representative, Public Works staff, and Gossen Livingston staff to start work preparing specifications for the furniture and equipment needs for this facility.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Randy Brown, Chair, reported that the federal CIPA trial ended last Thursday. Mr. Brown believes the appeals court is not going to look favorably upon CIPA. Regardless of the ruling, the case will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Substitute S614, the Broadband Technology Network Bill, is currently in the House Utilities Committee. The Senate passed the bill 38-2. The substitute measure would increase the value of the Kansas universal service fund to pay for the Kan-Ed network, meaning we would all pay for the increase through increases on our telephone bills.

Randy Brown asked if the Board would wish to respond to an editorial letter written by L. Kelly, titled "Porn – Protecting children at libraries isn't censorship," date April 8, 2002, *The Wichita Eagle*. Copies of the editorial were distributed in Board packets, as well as three 'Opinion Lines' supporting the editorial. Cyndi Berner Harris noted that Phill Kline, an Attorney General candidate from Johnson County, was recently in town giving a press conference announcing a proposal to rid the State of pedophiles through

initiatives including mandated Internet filtering in schools and libraries. Ed Koon stated he thought about writing a letter to the editor in response, but decided the article was not worth a response and would only bring more attention to the matter. Sarah Bagby commented that the opinion lines were only negative; on the other hand, is there some way we could write a letter educating the editorial board of our stance on the issue. Randy Brown commented the opinion lines definitely did not dignify a response; however, he thinks the editorial does. Randy Brown moved (Bagby) that the President of the Board respond to the editorial mentioned above in an informative way describing what the Library's position is and why. **Motion carried 10-1 with Koon in the negative.**

Mr. Brown distributed a brochure regarding the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government, of which he serves as the current President-Elect on its Board of Directors. The Coalition was organized in 1999 to promote open government in Kansas. He encouraged Board members to join in its membership.

Director of Libraries Report

Ms. Berner Harris thanked those on the Board who attended the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon yesterday at Botanica.

Invitations to the May 3 "Listening to the Prairie" grand opening will soon be mailed. Please note the date on your calendar in order to attend this event at the Central Library.

Ms. Berner Harris commented on the budget's program options, specifically the second one – Alford Branch operating costs. She met with Council Member Gale regarding the usage of the Aley Branch. Mr. Gale's only concern was whether or not there are people who walk to the branch and may not be able to traverse to any other library. A customer survey was taken for two weeks asking the question "How did you travel to the Aley Branch?" Over the two-week period, only two people stated they had walked, but noted that they utilize other branches as well. The majority of the people who patronize Aley noted that they also use other branches, mainly the Seneca Branch and Central. Ms. Berner Harris believes that Aley should be closed since better service would be offered from the new Alford Branch. Ms. Berner Harris believes the Principal understands the situation and does not have any reservations about the Aley Branch closing.

The technology integration scenario was initiated by the Finance and Data Center departments but is one that should be workable for the Library.

Furniture replacement (Central public seating) is being submitted in hopes that there may be money in end-of-year savings for this type of purchase.

In terms of the four-percent reduction scenario, Ms. Berner Harris believes that neither staff positions nor hours of operation should be reduced since we are already forty percent below the statewide mandated requirements for staffing. The library would not generate savings by closing hours of operation unless staffing were reduced. Therefore, materials budgets would be the most affected. WPL Foundation, Special Funds and

Friends of the Library would be asked for more funds if this budget reduction scenario becomes reality.

The resignation of Heidi Dressler, Local Historian, was announced. Heidi has accepted a position as the cataloger for the public library system for the Virgin Islands. Heidi's last day at the Wichita Public Library will be May 8, 2002.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Gerald Layman moved (Limon-Lowderman) to concur with and approve the library staff's proposed budget submittal and six prioritized program options. Discussion was held on the motion. Sarah Bagby praised the reduction scenario that would keep library staff but, if necessity dictates, cut collections. Mr. Cohen mentioned that public perception of quality of library service is based on staff. Cathy Landwehr noted that fundraising for books would be easier than fundraising for staff positions. Mr. Layman amended his original motion to clarify the Board's understanding and support of the consolidation of the Aley Branch into the Alford Regional Library as outlined in the program options. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Gerald Layman moved (Ogle) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 21, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries