

## WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

March 18, 2003

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, March 18, 2003 with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Ms. Barbara Baker, Mr. Gillard Cohen, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Mr. Ed Koon, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Ronda Limon-Lowderman, Ms. Nancy Ogle, Ms. Helen Parli and Mr. Karl Peterjohn. Absent: Mr. Randy Brown, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Tim Moore and Ms. Lois Ruby. Staff present: Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries; Mary K. Bird-Guilliams, Coordinator of Collection Development; Ginny Ray, Coordinator of Customer Service; Larry Vos, Coordinator of Reference Services; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II. Also in attendance: Dr. Jim Erickson, President of the Friends of the Library; Ms. Carol Nazar, Wichita Public Library Foundation Executive Director; and Mr. Tim Norton, Chairman, Sedgwick County Commission.

Karl Peterjohn had extended an invitation to Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner, to speak at today's Board meeting. Mr. Norton spoke about the importance of building collaboration and partnerships between City and County governments. As an elected official, and as a father of five, Mr. Norton believes in life-long learning, continuing education, and libraries as places for community activity. Mr. Norton is very supportive of libraries and appreciates the outreach programs into the communities. With the link of technology, he believes that future governance could include big cities, small towns and rural areas. He speculated that some administrations might have to give up power, control and money in order to cut duplication of services and efforts. Carol Nazar asked Mr. Norton if leadership was looking at more city-county consolidation efforts. Mr. Norton is having dialogs with City representatives regarding possible partnerships in the future, giving examples as Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, and Technology. He gave another example where each of the 105 counties in Kansas has a Register of Deeds, yet there are some counties that only register deeds five or six times a week. Would not a regional-type consolidation make sense here? He noted where 84% of aging services falls within the City of Wichita, yet county residents also support the services. Almost 90% of the calls to 911 come from the urban areas, yet unincorporated surrounding towns are supplementing these services. Mr. Norton asked if there was dialog going on about collaborations regarding a countywide system for libraries. Ms. Berner Harris stated that the South Central Kansas Library System is well established and has offered service to this part of the state

since 1966. A cooperative project was developed for all but two of the public libraries in Sedgwick County for the 2003 Summer Reading Program. Sponsored by the Celia and Leonard Levand Trust, the cooperative project allows the smaller public libraries the ability to bring in performers and a higher level of summer reading activity. Staff also works with the Sedgwick County legislative delegation and is identifying ways to work cooperatively to serve people in multiple locations. Mr. Norton said he would be glad to help with legislator contact and knows that 'we all do better when we work together.' Before departing the meeting, Mr. Norton said congratulations on the Alford Branch Library and that he would be attending its grand opening. Mr. Cohen and Board members thanked Mr. Norton for coming to the meeting and appreciated his remarks.

*Tim Norton departed the meeting at 12:42 p.m.*

In the absence of Tim Moore, President, Mr. Cohen, First Vice President, called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m., a quorum being present.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 18, 2003 were presented. Barbara Baker moved (Limon-Lowderman) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee Report**

Karl Peterjohn, Chair, presented the Finance Committee report. Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$385,726.62; Grant Fund Bills of \$33,925.17; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$100.00; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$1,315.52 totaling \$421,067.31 for the month of February 2003 were presented, as well as the Financial Report for February 2003. Mr. Peterjohn moved that the Financial Report and bills for February 2003 be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Finance Committee discussed budget reductions in which reductions to be implemented total only about one and one half percent (\$99,149) for the library instead of the originally requested seven- percent. Although the City is facing some financial challenges, the library is not looking at a situation quite as grim as originally thought.

*Carol Nazar departed the meeting at 12:45 p.m.*

### **Operations Committee Report**

Nancy Ogle, Chair, reported that library staff have received a petition asking for a change in the schedule of operations for the Maya Angelou neighborhood branch. The branch is currently open 35 hours per week,

closed on Mondays. The proposal is to close on Sunday and expand hours through the remaining days of the week to total 47. Considering our budget situation, Ms. Ogle voiced concerns that we cannot afford an increase of 12 hours per week at this facility. Nancy Ogle moved (Peterjohn) that we communicate to Councilman Brewer that the hours of the Maya Angelou Branch Library should not be extended at this time. Mr. Koon commented that we would very much like to see all library hours extended in all facilities; however, the budget at this time dictates otherwise. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding Ms. Jean Pouncil-Burton's proposal for after-hours programming at the Maya Angelou Branch this fall, Nancy Ogle moved (Koon) that we like the idea of quality programming for the community; however we are not in the position of having Friday evenings open for programming in the fall. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Planning & Facilities Committee Report**

Ed Koon gave the Planning and Facilities Committee report as follows:

Materials were moved from Aley to the Alford Branch and the furniture moved into City storage. Most of the new furniture has arrived and is in place. The City has released three additional positions for Alford, which will result in five full-time equivalents for opening day. The materials from Seneca were moved on March 17. The Aley and Seneca Branches have been closed. All materials have been moved from the Seneca Branch. The move of materials from Seneca to Alford began March 17.

Staff developed a plan to suspend operations at the Planeview Branch as of the end of business on Friday, March 28.

### **Public Affairs Committee Report**

In the absence of Randy Brown, Chair, Committee Member Jane Eshelman gave the Public Affairs Committee report.

House Bill 2420, an Internet filtering bill, was filed in the Kansas Legislature. Hearings were held before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee on March 10 and 11. If adopted, the Library would be required to filter computer workstations that might be used by minors. Even then, the possibility of litigation would remain. Tim Moore was among those who testified in opposition to the bill. Five members of the Sedgwick County delegation sit on the committee. They are divided in their thoughts about the proposal. Of the five members from Sedgwick County on the committee, three are opposed to the bill, one is very

supportive, and one can see both sides and is undecided at this time. The Committee Chair's last word is that a vote may occur next week.

The farewell party at Seneca on March 8, with trolley tours to a preview of the Alford Branch, was well attended. More than 100 people toured the new building and all were enthusiastic in their response.

In spite of the media attention given to the upcoming closing of the Planeview Branch, customer complaints have been minimal. The library has received only one call, and after explaining the situation, the customer applauded the library on the difficult but appropriate decision to include the Planeview closing on the list of budget reduction scenarios. To date, all other negative feedback has come from school staff or individuals affiliated with Colvin Elementary.

### **Friends of the Library Liaison Report**

Helen Parli, Friends of the Library liaison, noted that Council Member Bill Gale would do the ribbon cutting honors for the opening of the Alford Branch on April 5, 2003.

The Friends Board authorized the purchase of an umbrella license from the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation. This license allows staff to present a film within the Academy Awards Shorts program that we would not have been able to include otherwise.

Ms. Parli reminded Board members that the Friends of the Library's next book sale is this weekend, March 22 & 23, 2003.

The next lecture series will be April 3 with Sharon West, real estate broker, as the speaker. Her topic is "Dress Your House for Success."

The search is on for a new Bookstore Manager. Charley Whitworth is resigning effective April 30, 2003.

### **Director of Libraries Report**

Ms. Berner Harris reminded Board members that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards Shorts Program will be held March 23 at Rockwell, March 25 at Westlink, March 27 at Evergreen, March 29 at Central, and April 7 at Alford.

Library staff are grateful to the Friends of the Library for purchasing the umbrella license so that we can show the Pixar film during the upcoming programs, but more importantly so that we have the capability to include

film programming in our children's programs and potentially film discussion series.

Bookmarks were distributed listing the grand opening events for the Alford Branch April 4-6, 2003.

Ms. Berner Harris has the complete transcript of the two-day series of hearings on House Bill 2420, the Internet filtering bill. This bill would mandate a technology that does not work and WPL staff and Board Members could still be held responsible.

The City Council's budget reduction implementation results in the following plan for the library system:

Planeview closing: Staff will remove all technology equipment from Planeview on March 28; juvenile materials will continue to be owned by the public library (approximately 10,000 items estimated at \$145,000); however, Colvin Elementary will be allowed to keep through the end of this school year; 50% (5,000 items) will be left for the 2003-2004 school year as a bulk loan. The Seneca Branch shelving was offered to Colvin; however, they did not meet school standards for shelving. Ms. Berner Harris thanked Helen Parli for handling some Planeview Branch closing questions from a library patron.

Branch deliveries: Beginning April 1, the current daily branch deliveries will be reduced to three times a week to each branch. The second delivery van will be parked with the hope that we may resume daily deliveries in the future.

Materials budget: The materials budget was released with a \$50,000 cut. There is a backup plan in case another \$50,000 needs to be recovered before year's end.

*Ronda Limon-Lowderman departed the meeting at 1:14 p.m.*

Board members are encouraged to attend the Volunteer Luncheon April 24 at Botanica. Lou Heldman, publisher of *The Wichita Eagle*, will be the guest speaker. The Wichita Public Library Foundation will be making a very important announcement at the luncheon.

City Hall representatives have announced that they anticipate the security threat level could increase from orange to red tomorrow and to anticipate making some procedural changes in the way we handle our public access computer workstations. Staff may be asked to suspend the availability of workstations to people who are not registered borrowers of the public library, since an identified problem has been public computer use done

anonymously. Another area of awareness is that any public building may be used as a site for protesters.

With permission from Tim Moore, President of the Board, Ms. Berner Harris has directed staff to suspend any communication with library patron Mr. Ray Anderson. Mr. Anderson was invited but refused to come before the Board on today's agenda, instead wishing for mediation. Mr. Moore advised against mediation. Mr. Anderson is a patron who was upset with his loss of privileges temporarily at the Evergreen Branch.

*Nancy Ogle departed the meeting at 1:17 p.m.*

### **Unfinished Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Ms. Berner Harris read a Proclamation citing Edwin Francis, former member of the Library Board and founding member of the Wichita Public Library Foundation Board since its inception in 1987, as a director emeritus of the WPL Foundation Board. Gerald Layman moved (Eshelman) that the Board approve the proclamation and authorize the Director of Libraries and Tim Moore, President of the Library Board of Directors, to sign the proclamation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Gerald Layman moved (Baker) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

**The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 15, 2003.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries