

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
September 19, 2006

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 with the following present: Ms. Donna Aldrich, Ms. Barbara Baker, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Mr. Tim Moore, Ms. Evelyn Neier, Ms. Nancy Ogle, Ms. Helen Parli, Mr. Rodger Woods and Ms. Marge Zakoura-Vaughan. Absent: Mr. Randy Brown, Mr. Tom Engelmann, Ms. Jane Eshelman and Ms. Susan Estes.

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; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II.

Guests: Julie Brin, Trees for Life; Myrna Hudson, League of Women Voters.

During lunch, Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian, talked about the upcoming Kansas Book Festival to be held Sept. 29-30, 2006 at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. Programs and activities for children will be held throughout the Festival. The Wichita Public Library and the Friends of the Library will have booths. Kansas's authors Don Coldsmith and Robert Day are to be available for book signing. Program highlights are the announcement of the Kansas Notable Books. All events at L-D Stadium are free and open to the public. The gala event, the "Black and White and READ All Over" ball, will be held at Exploration Place Friday evening, Sept. 29. Admission is \$50. The movie "Infamous" will be shown Saturday evening at 8:00 at Warren Theatre East. The movie concerns Truman Capote and his friendship with Harper Lee. The director and writer of the movie are to attend. We hope to see good attendance for this first annual festival. Mr. Moore thanked Jennifer for her presentation.

Tim Moore, President, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., a quorum being present.

Julie Brin was introduced. Julie is the Coordinator of Books for Life. Trees for Life is a local non-profit organization helping people in developing countries help themselves by providing the tools and resources to plant fruit trees and also implement educational projects such as building children's libraries.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 15, 2006 were presented. Cathy Landwehr moved (Ogle) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Jerry Layman moved that the Finance report for August 2006 and the bills be approved as presented on the agenda: Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$533,197.29; 2006 Grant Fund Bills of \$35,294.87; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$405.97; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$13,131.04 for a total of \$582,029.17. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Talking Books (Blind & Physically Handicapped) contract for the fiscal year October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007 needs approval by the Board with a recommendation to the City Council for approval. The proposed budget is \$126,896. The amount is up about ten percent due to lobbying efforts to the state legislature. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Layman moved that the Talking Books budget and contract be approved and forwarded to the City Council for approval. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Library anticipates receiving an Interlibrary Loan Development grant for 2006-2007 in the amount of \$91,548. For the first time, the State Library of Kansas is encouraging purchase of digital titles as well as traditional print resources from this grant. As a result, library staff proposes reducing the percentage of the grant set aside for cataloging and physical processing from 20% to 10%, using the remaining amount for the purchase of materials. Mr. Layman moved that the 2006-2007 Interlibrary Loan Development grant budget be approved. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, gave the Operations Committee report, consisting of three items.

- 1) Closing of Maya Angelou October 1 -- Due to the Rolling Stones concert being held at Cessna Stadium at WSU, the Police Department proposed closing the Maya Angelou branch on the concert date of Sunday, October 1, 2006. The Operations Committee recommends the closing; therefore, Ms. Ogle moved on behalf of the Operations Committee to close the Maya Angelou Branch on Sunday, October 1. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2) Holiday Hours

While the Library Board acknowledges that Saturday, November 11 is the official Veteran's Day holiday, the City of Wichita designates Friday, November 10 as the observance of Veteran's Day. The Operations Committee recommends following the City's lead, closing library facilities on Friday, November 10 and maintaining regular hours on November 11.

The City is officially observing Monday, December 25 as a holiday. The Director of Libraries recommends that the library also be closed Saturday and Sunday, December 23 and 24. These two days would not be paid holidays but scheduled days off for all staff. The library would maintain regular hours on December 30-31 but close on New Year's Day, January 1, 2007.

Ms. Ogle moved on behalf of the Operations Committee to observe the above holiday closings as recommended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3) Request from USD259 -- Board members received a copy of a letter from the Superintendent of USD 259 and the President of the Wichita Board of Education expressing disappointment that more input from the Wichita Public Schools was not solicited in the master planning process and as a result requesting that the WPL Board include a Wichita Public Schools employee as an additional member to the Library Board. The WPL Board is established by City of Wichita ordinance so the Board has

no ability to comply with this request. Ms. Ogle moved on behalf of the Operations Committee to respond in the negative to the request of placing a USD259 employee on the Library Board, but reaffirms our commitment to serving all of the children in the Wichita community and encouraging the school staff to attend library board meetings as observers whenever their schedules might allow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

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

- On behalf of the Planning & Facilities Committee, Ms. Neier thanked the Director, staff, Gossen Livingston, and Board members for the work on the library master planning process leading up to the City Council's endorsement of the plan.
- Vandalism at Rockwell continued this past month. Central had two broken windows at a cost of nearly \$3,000. Damage was done to materials at Westlink's book drop when someone decided to include a cup of soda along with the book returns.
- The new chairs in the Board Room were noted and appreciated.

Marge Zakoura-Vaughan entered the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Public Affairs Committee Report

In Mr. Brown's absence, Cynthia Berner Harris gave the Public Affairs Committee report.

- The feeling of the Public Affairs Committee is that efforts to manage the message of the master plan adoption and endorsement went well.
- The Kansas Library Association Governmental Affairs Committee meets Sept. 21. Ms. Berner Harris will be in attendance as the committee starts to review the items for the 2007 legislative agenda.
- Ms. Berner Harris will meet Monday, Sept. 25 at the City Arts building to sign the \$25,000 contract granted to WPL to underwrite library programs during 2007. Funds available for redirection as a result of this grant are to be used for marketing library events and general community awareness about library programs and services.

Special Committee Reports

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

- Larry Romine, Treasurer, reported another good sales month for the bookstore.
- Walter Sears, BetterWorld Books, explained their policies in processing of discarded donations from the bookstore. The Board decided to consider this at a later date.
- Received a thank you from Junior League of Wichita for funding an advertisement in their Holiday Galleria brochure.
- A Good Samaritan request was granted for a patron who lost items in an apartment fire.
- This weekend marks the 15-cent book sale in honor of the 15-year anniversary of the bookstore.
- Membership consists of 547 total – 510 Gold, 37 regular.

Library Foundation – Tim Moore reported that the Foundation Board would be meeting September 28th to interview four candidates for the WPL Foundation Executive Director position.

Wichita Genealogical Society – Barbara Baker stated they held a seminar last Saturday. Jeffrey Bachman will be speaking at a future workshop. The Society will be sponsoring a library research trip to Salt Lake City beginning September 23.

Director of Libraries Report

Ms. Berner Harris reported that a letter of complaint concerning the scheduling of the Friends book sale has been received as this conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.

As part of the ongoing process to inform the community about the master planning process, Ms. Berner Harris will be speaking tonight at the Orchard Park Association. She has also been asked to talk about the plan at a session of the West Wichita Shepherd Center in early October. She will also make a presentation tomorrow morning to the Homeless Task Force, discussing the challenges and impacts of chronic homelessness upon the service delivery of our public library system.

The transition from Dynix to Horizon is being delayed until mid-March 2007.

Board members were asked to convey to Lucille Holder their wish to receive Board packets via regular mail or e-mail.

Mrs. Zakoura-Vaughn asked if the library is sensitive to all religious holidays in the scheduling of events. Ms. Berner Harris assured the board that this is the case. In this situation, the event connection to the anniversary required weekend dates in September with the 23rd and 24th being the only times without other conflicts with activities at the Library or Century II.

Mrs. Zakoura-Vaughn also asked if the Library still circulates materials to the Sedgwick County Detention Facility. Ms. Berner Harris stated that we no longer send materials as bulk loans, but that the Friends of the Library have gifted donated materials upon request. We do have a bulk loan agreement currently in place with the juvenile detention facility. Every Friday, Gwen Harris, Youth Outreach Librarian, visits the juvenile facility with materials and programming.

Mrs. Zakoura-Vaughn then asked about the status of “The Book Club,” a special book club for probationers assigned to the group by District Court Judge Rebecca Pilshaw. Ms. Berner Harris explained that the program has been suspended because of some scheduling issues that were preventing Judge Pilshaw from participating in the program, but that the Library stands ready to reinstitute the sessions should the Judge once again be able to assist.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Nancy Ogle moved (Aldrich) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 17, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris
Director of Libraries