

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

September 18, 2001

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, September 18, 2001. Mr. Tim Moore, President, called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Sarah Bagby, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Mr. Ed Koon, Ms. Catherine Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Ms. Ronda Limon-Lowderman and Ms. Nancy Ogle. Absent: Mr. Gillard Cohen, 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; Ginny Ray, Coordinator of Customer Service; Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II. Also in attendance: Dr. Jim Erickson, President of the Friends of the Library.

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

Ms. Jane Eshelman introduced herself as a newly appointed member of the Board.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 21, 2001 were presented. Gerald Layman moved (Limon-Lowderman) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

The two members of the Finance Committee were unable to meet with the Director prior to the Board meeting today. Therefore, the committee's report will be given and August bills approved at the October 16 Board meeting.

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, reported that library staff completed a strategic vision plan for the library. The plan was provided to Board members in their September Board packets. Staff identified 133 action steps, divided into several categories that are examples of activities that might be undertaken in order to attain the Library's strategic goals. The vision, challenges and goals will be shared with the Wichita Public Library Foundation Board of Directors at their strategic planning session scheduled for September 26. With the NEH challenge grant nearing completion, the Foundation needs to identify ways in which it can be most helpful to the library. Ms. Ogle explained that an endorsement of the vision, challenges and strategic goals was requested of the Board. This will be conducted under new business.

Library staff continue working on issues related to CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). Ms. Berner-Harris and Rex Cornelius, Electronic Resources Manager, worked on several drafts of a policy statement for information access and Internet safety that was presented by State Librarian Duane Johnson at a training session for library staff and trustees from south central Kansas on September 8. The State Library recommends modifications to the policy for CIPA compliance and to respond to concerns from the Kansas Legislature about children and teens having access to information through their local public libraries that should be prohibited (K.S.A. 21-4301a, Promoting obscenity to minors, and K.S.A. 21-4301c, Promotion to minors of obscenity harmful to minors).

Planning and Facilities Committee Report

In the absence of Gillard Cohen, Chair, Sarah Bagby gave the Planning and Facilities Committee report.

- The City Manager has approved a modified design for the North Branch site. The proposed drawing was distributed to Board members. Ms. Berner Harris presented the drawing and plans to District Advisory Board VI at their September 5 meeting where it was endorsed by a unanimous 8-0 vote. Ms. Berner Harris explained the minor changes from the prior plan. Total facility space will be 14,300 sq. ft., of which our share will be 10,000 sq. ft. The next step is for the plans to be taken to the City's Design Review Board for their consideration and approval.
- Gillard Cohen and members of library staff met with the design team from Gossen Livingston regarding two design concepts for the Alford South Regional Branch. A revised plan was received this morning and distributed to Board members. Total facility space will be 18,600 sq. ft.
- Two renovation projects have been set aside for funding by the Public Works Department. They are re-carpeting of the Rockwell Branch and remodeling of the Central Auditorium. The Auditorium cork walls will be replaced with acoustical and tackable wheat-colored wall covering. The lighting will be upgraded and the ceiling tiles will be cleaned and restored. Both projects are scheduled for completion in late 2001 or early 2002.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Tim Moore complimented Ms. Berner Harris on her contribution to the newspaper article "Spring could bring new library" which appeared in the Neighbors West section of the September 13, 2001 *Wichita Eagle*.

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Director of Libraries Report

Ms. Berner Harris introduced Jennifer Heinicke, WPL's new Special Projects Librarian.

On behalf of Lois Ruby, Public Affairs Chair, Ms. Berner Harris urged Board members to read an article by Ellen Miller titled "Advocacy ABCs for Trustees" that was mailed in the Board packets.

WPL was listed as a City resource for airline passengers stranded in Wichita last week. Staff relayed e-mail messages for the temporarily stranded passengers and were more lenient in allowing Internet access for out-of-town visitors.

Ms. Berner Harris met with the Derby Public Library Board of Directors at their August meeting. County Commission Sciortino was present to discuss the possibility of county funding for libraries. Mr. Sciortino's recommendation to the Derby Board was that individual libraries consider becoming their own district library, which means becoming your own taxing district and then take in parts of the townships from unincorporated parts of the county. Although this is a wonderful idea, it would not be allowed per Kansas statute at this time. Also, the League of Municipalities is very adamant about reducing, not increasing, the amount of taxing districts. Another suggestion of Mr. Sciortino's was for libraries to work cooperatively throughout the county, a project which Don Barry, past President of the Board, had WPL staff start doing last spring.

On the west lawn of Central, the Park Department has set up park benches that were donated by Helen Galloway. The purpose is to provide a special reading area for library and/or Century II patrons. Additional landscaping will be provided in this area.

Ticket purchases for the Bucky Walters benefit fundraiser, October 30, are going well. The Friends of the Library are giving one-year free memberships to the \$50 ticket buyers as a way of saying thank you, plus a way to increase future membership.

Another Friends of the Library project is a partnership with Phil McComish, Watermark West, who has been helping sell the more valuable donated materials. A recent example of this is the selling of "The Bibliography of Aeronautics" for \$240. Mr. McComish is thanked for doing this pro bono.

Ms. Berner Harris met with Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books, about the possibility of partnering notable author tours. A proposal is being submitted to bring in Robert Caro, a noted historian. Future opportunities of this sort will be announced.

A presentation was to have been given by Rex Cornelius, Electronic Resources Manager, to the Board today regarding the Kansas Library Card program, a new service that provides remote access to the State Library. Unfortunately, there was a new worm on the Internet and we could not gain the access needed. The program will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

One invoice exceeding \$10,000 required Board approval. The invoice is from Proquest Information and Learning, for microfilm subscriptions to *The Wichita Eagle*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *New York Times* for the year 2002. The amount of the invoice is \$13,581.75. Gerald Layman moved (Limon-Lowderman) that the Proquest Information and Learning invoice be approved and payment authorized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Tim Moore mentioned that he would be happy to sit in on the Finance Committee until more Board members have been appointed. To date, eleven of the fourteen Board appointments have been made.

Appointment of Board committee assignments were made as follows:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Karl Peterjohn – Chair

Gerald Layman

PLANNING & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Gillard Cohen – Chair

Sarah Bagby

Ronda Limon-Lowderman

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Nancy Ogle-Chair

Ed Koon

Jane Eshelman

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Lois Ruby – Chair

Catherine Landwehr

Tim Moore

Tim Moore asked for discussion on the Strategic Plan for the Wichita Public Library as submitted by WPL staff. The two main issues are staffing and facility space. The lack of sufficient parking is the most consistent complaint at Central. Nancy Ogle moved (Eshelman) that the Board endorse the Strategic Course for the Wichita Public Library as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Announcements

None.

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Adjournment

Sarah Bagby moved (Limon-Lowderman) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 16, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris

Director of Libraries