

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Directors

March 15, 2005

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 with the following present: Ms. Donna Aldrich, Ms. Sarah Bagby, Ms. Barbara Baker, Ms. Jane Eshelman, Ms. Susan Estes, Mr. Matt Goolsby, Mr. Ed Koon, Ms. Cathy Landwehr, Mr. Gerald Layman, Mr. Tim Moore, Ms. Evelyn Neier, Ms. Nancy Ogle and Ms. Helen Parli. Absent: Mr. Randy Brown.

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; Larry Vos, Coordinator of Reference Services; Seif Al-Shaer, Operations Section Manager; Jennifer Heinicke, Special Projects Librarian; and Lucille Holder, Administrative Aide II.

Mary K. Bird-Guilliams, Coordinator of Collection Development, introduced ladies from the AAUW (American Association of University Women) – Barbara Baker, Mary Chase, Kathryn Compton, Sally Hayes, Rhita Muci and Idell Shaver. The Wichita Branch of AAUW donated 19 publications to the Wichita Public Library in honor of March being Women's History Month. The materials were published by the AAUW and are a wonderful addition to our collection. Ms. Berner Harris, Director of Libraries, noted as an aside that Rhita Muci would be honored at the Kansas Library Association Tri-Conference 2005 to be held later this month as one of two people in the state to receive individual Friends awards from the Friends of Kansas Library.

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

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 15, 2005 were presented. Sarah Bagby moved (Eshelman) that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

Gerald Layman moved that the Finance report for February be approved as presented on the agenda: Operating Fund Bills in the amount of \$439,855.00; 2005 Grant Fund Bills of \$41,102.56; Prior Year Grant Fund Bills of \$25,516.46; and Memorial & Gift Fund Bills of \$3,691.53 for a total of \$510,165.55 for the month of February 2005, as well as the Financial Report for February 2005. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Finance Committee welcomed the news that the revenues so far this year are up 27% over the same time last year.

Revisions to State Grants in Aid budgets were presented and asked for approval.

- 1) A revision was proposed to the 2002 State Aid budget, moving all unexpended funds into a contingency fund line for one-time costs related to the Dynix to Horizon

- migration, related technology upgrades and enhancements. Some funding will also be used for materials purchases. When actual costs of the migration are finalized, a follow-up revision to this budget will be submitted to the Board for approval. Mr. Layman moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve proposed revisions to create a contingency fund as stated above. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 2) A revision was proposed to the 2005 State Aid budget in order to reflect an increased amount of grant money received in the amount of \$736. All of the extra funding has been assigned to the materials budget. Mr. Layman moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve the proposed revision to the 2005 State Grant in Aid to reflect the increased amount of grant award. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Nancy Ogle, Chair, gave the Operations Committee report. While stating the month was quiet operations-wise, the Director had advised Ms. Ogle that the newly adopted Policy Manual has already proved useful. A technology firm has located near the Central Library and is in need of training space for their customers. They are interested in reserving the Technology Training Center for rental. The ability to provide a copy of our policy concerning TTC rentals is a great help in responding to questions about this service.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Ed Koon, Chair, gave the Planning & Facilities Committee report.

- New protocols to manage graffiti within the Evergreen library appear to be successful. Staff checks the public restrooms at the beginning of every hour. Only one instance of graffiti was reported during the month and it was very minor and easily removed.
- We are having problems with the Rockwell parking lot grounds being used as a dumping ground. A mattress set was left in the parking lot over the weekend of February 19. The branch also endured some minor vandalism where the outer layer of glass on one of the windows was broken perhaps by a BB gun. The window has been repaired.
- An interior book return has been purchased for placement at the entrance to the Orchard Branch. This will provide after hours return when the recreation center is open but the library closed. The book drop is a good asset and is the last branch to have one installed. Ms. Berner Harris noted that credit should go to Board Member Donna Aldrich, as it was through a neighborhood meeting she chairs that customer interest in having a materials return at Orchard was received.
- The remaining shelves for a space saving project at Westlink have been received and will be installed this week.
- A study from the Gossen Livingston Associates, Inc. firm was distributed concerning their proposal for the library system's new strategic vision and master plan. The Friends of the Library and the WPL Foundation agreed to split the cost 50/50. The fee is \$77,000 of which the Friends and the Foundation each

would pay \$38,500. This proposal will help the Planning & Facilities Committee have expertise about cost and space needs. The Board will be given updates every month. The WPL Board of Directors, the Foundation Board and the Friends of the Library will jointly set up constituency groups.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Matt Goolsby, Chair, gave the Public Affairs Committee Report.

- Copies of the Sunday, March 13, *Wichita Eagle* article titled “Library Falls Short” were distributed. Mr. Goolsby asked Board members for comments. The general feeling was that the article was not critical of the library but to show we are doing the best we can with what we have. Jerry Layman suggested the Library Board take a stronger stand as to why we need more, not just retaining the same.
- At the State level, Board and Friends Board members did outstanding work through our calling tree when House Bill 2353 (the bill that mandates filtering, circulation policies for videos, DVDs, electronic media, etc.) was scheduled for hearing. Not long after our contracts began, the hearing was cancelled. Particular thanks are due to Rep. Nile Dillmore who offered assistance in opposition to the initiative.
- Hearings have been held about reauthorizing funding for the Kan-Ed network. Currently the network receives \$10,000,000 in funding from the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF). An amendment from within the House Utilities Committee would change the funding mix to phase out KUSF funding over several years and move the project to the State General Fund. There are mixed feelings from within the Kan-Ed constituency about the impact of such a change.
- All other legislative measures appear to be tied up in committees. Action is still pending on the state library budget (which includes funding for grants-in-aid to local libraries, the ILDP program, etc.), open records exemptions for library customer records, and exemptions from sales tax for Friends of the Library organizations.
- The Library’s “Vioneering Team” has met to select the strategies most appropriate for adoption by the Library Board and Friends. Mr. Goolsby deferred to Sarah Bagby for this report.

Vioneering Wichita

Sarah Bagby stated that she, Ed Koon, Cynthia Berner Harris and David Farnsworth, Friends of the Library representative, met to put together a formal commitment to the Vioneering office. The “Vision Partner Strategy Adoption Form” was distributed. This form is the official Vision Partner form to be submitted to Suzie Ahlstrand at the Vioneering Wichita office in the Chamber of Commerce upon approval by the Board. The team is strategizing to support certain sections of the Vioneering mission. The form lists strategies that could be measured and benchmarked to show what has been done at the library. The form lists possible community contacts and partnerships with the library. Ms. Bagby asked for comments.

Tim Moore suggested placing Cynthia Berner Harris's name for continuity's sake, rather than his name as President of the Board. Susan Estes suggested asking *The Wichita Eagle* reporter to write more about the positive and busy events going on at the library relating to Visioneering. Sarah Bagby commented that she was uncomfortable with using the comparison of libraries to bookstores as a benchmark. Ms. Berner Harris stated that the Friends of the Library had a lengthy discussion on this subject as well. Their vision was that the library should not just be a gathering place, but support the community in offering space for a broad variety of community organizations, hobby and interest groups. Admittedly, there is a problem with the homeless gathering image. Jerry Layman remembers the phone call from a local homeless shelter calling the library on a bad weather day this winter to see if we were open so that they could close. Jane Eshelman noted that some members at a District I meeting were not aware of the Academy Awards Shorts presentation being shown and were unaware that we are one of only three venues in the nation.

**Matt Goolsby departed the meeting at 12:45 p.m.*

By acclamation, the Board accepted the proposed Visioneering Partner Strategy Adoption Form and authorized staff to forward to the Visioneering Wichita Office.

Friends of the Library Liaison Report

Helen Parli, Friends of the Library liaison, imparted the following news from the Friends' March 10 meeting:

- Mac McKee, Gina Loomis and Kirk Jurgensen from Gossen Livingston Associates were guests at the meeting to present information concerning the proposed master planning process for the Library.
- Members were thanked for their advocacy efforts in opposing the Internet filtering bill.
- Internet book sales remain strong. Since the current volunteer has been working with the program slightly over a year, more than \$6,000 in sales has been completed through the Internet.
- The Friends will sponsor a special sale of used children's books on March 25-26.
- Membership is 438, with 392 gold cards, 46 regular.

Director of Libraries Report

As a follow-up to Mr. Layman's finance committee item of costs related to the technology migration from Dynix to Horizon, we will be incorporating those costs into the budget for presentation at next month's Board meeting. There will be some exciting things coming out of this migration – such as self-check, automating the process for sign-ups at public PCs, and monitoring of print jobs from the public PCs.

Upcoming dates of important events include the following:

Sunday, April 3 – Grand opening of the Anne Frank exhibit from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Rabbi Davis will be the guest speaker. The lower level at Central will have displays of borrowed items from camps in Kansas that existed during World War II.

Monday, April 18 – The annual volunteer recognition luncheon will be held at 12 Noon at Botanica. Rhita Muci will receive special recognition. A recognition plaque will be given in memory of Marion Porter Reiff, long-time library volunteer of homebound deliveries. The guest speaker for the occasion is the newly appointed State Librarian – Christie Pierson Brandeau.

Tuesday, May 31 -- Jean Pouncil Burton, Maya Angelou Branch Manager and library employee for more than thirty years, has announced she will be retiring May 31. We will announce a retirement reception date in her honor, perhaps on this date, May 31.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Jerry Layman moved (Bagby) for adjournment. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 19, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Berner Harris
Director of Libraries