

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – January 24, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Westport Library Branch, 118 Westport Rd. Kansas City, MO 64111.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Laura Dominik  
Billie Howard Barnes  
Jonathan Kemper  
Susie Kenney  
Denesha Snell

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Michelle Smirnova  
India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Executive Director  
Jensen Adams, Energy and Sustainability Officer  
Jessica Addo, Purchasing Manager  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems  
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator and  
Project Specialist  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Community  
Engagement  
Michael Daly, AV Supervisor  
Brianna Daniels, Administrative Officer  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Kim Gile, Branch Services and Engagement Director  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Angela Fencl, Director of Finance  
Bre Hansen, Westport Assistant Branch Manager  
Cindy Hohl, Director of Policy Analysis and Operational Support  
Dawn Mackey, Technical Services Manager  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Beccah Rendall, AmeriCorps Program Manager  
Amanda Rodriguez, North-East Branch Manager  
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Stoppello, Director of Library Collections  
Anthony Trakas, Finance Manager  
Karen Weitzel, Chief People Officer

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

The Board agreed to table the election of officers until the next regular meeting when Howard-Barnes would be in attendance.

**Motion by Kemper to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022, Regular Board meeting. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously.**

(Note: As a matter of Board convention, the Chair votes only when his/her vote would affect the outcome of the vote. In all "recorded" votes, the vote of the Chair appears only when it has actually been cast and when it has had an effect on the disposition of the motion. Notations of "approved unanimously" mean all members, other than the Chair, voting affirmatively.)

**Motion by Snell to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Oñate Greim. Approved unanimously.** The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for December 2022: Payroll (12/1/22 net cash \$322,554 plus taxes \$114,641), (12/15/22 net cash \$316,487 plus taxes \$112,688), (12/29/22 net cash \$325,548 plus taxes \$115,094) total amount of \$1,307,013; General Expense Payments including Checks (#9605-9847), in the amount of \$1,494,655. (LBM 4600)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for December 2022. (LBM 4601)**

**Motion by Kemper to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with Unite Private Networks, LLC for 2023 – 2024 E-Rate Wide Area Network (WAN) Connectivity Services and Equipment. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4602)**

Howard-Barnes entered the meeting at 5:08p.m.

Bre Hansen, the Westport Assistant Branch Manager, gave a brief overview of the history of the Westport Branch. Hansen highlighted that on February 22, 2023, the Westport Branch would be celebrating 125 years. Hansen shared the different events and promotional materials created to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also discussed the first art exhibit at the Westport Branch, which features art from local Kansas City artist KE Griffin. *The heARTS* exhibit was created in honor of the library's impact on Griffin's life. The exhibit includes art quilts, abstracts, and wood panels adorned with feathers, gems, prints, patterns, and denim.

Siragusa gave an overview of the Library's special funds held at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Siragusa gave a brief explanation of how each fund was created, the purpose of each fund, and the spending policies.

Jones gave a more detailed presentation on one of the five Special Funds, the Ewing Kauffman Book Fund honoring Kansas City entrepreneur and philanthropist and community leader Ewing

Marion Kauffman. This fund was created when the Library began a campaign in 1991 to raise matching funds for a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant. While the grant required a \$750,000 contribution, the initial gifts from a group of Kansas City business executives was \$1.2 million. This fund is used to purchase Library materials to enhance the Library's core collection, primarily in the humanities.

Herron discussed the Director's Report with the Board. (LBM 4603) Herron highlighted Cindy Hohl's nomination for presidency for the American Library Association (ALA). If elected, Hohl would be the second Native American woman to hold the presidency for ALA, and the first person from Kansas City. Jones introduced Kim Gile, who was recently promoted to the Library Branch Services and Engagement Director.

Kemper suggested that updates on the following key initiatives, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the Kansas City book festival, the strategic vision implementation, and legislative updates be added to board meeting agendas throughout the year.

Browne suggested a special meeting for discussion of the Plaza Library Overview.

**Motion by Snell to adjourn. Approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date