

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – June 18, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President  
Reid Day  
Laura Dominik  
Susan Kenney  
Michelle Smirnova  
India Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Claudia Oñate Greim  
Jonathan Kemper  
Elizabeth Warwick

STAFF PRESENT: Debbie Siragusa, Interim Chief Executive  
Teresa Bolton, Director of Central Library Operations  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems  
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator  
and Project Specialist  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Community  
Engagement  
Trina Duncan, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer  
Misty Eytcheson, Public Affairs Director  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer  
Jami Hrenchir, Sr. Dir. of Human Relations & Employee  
Experience / Chief People Officer  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Community Engagement and  
Outreach  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive  
Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Dakota Spencer, Director of Finance / Chief Financial Officer  
\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws Meeting, April 29, 2024, May 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the May 30, and June 6, 2024, Special Board Meetings. Second by Day. 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 for 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.)

Browne reported on the May 30 and June 6, 2024 Special Board Meetings. After interviewing the four finalist candidates, the Board of Trustees selected Abby Yellman as the next Chief Executive of the Kansas City Public Library.

**Motion by Dominik to appoint Abby Yellman as Chief Executive. Second by Kenney. Approved unanimously.**

Browne noted that Yellman will assume her role on August 5<sup>th</sup> and thanked the Search Committee and Library staff for their commitment, time and effort during the process.

**Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion by Dominik to consider items 4.1 and 4.2 separately.**

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4699), Siragusa provided a brief overview of the budget. Siragusa noted we are slightly under tax revenue but will end the year with close to revenue projections. Other revenue and expenditures are tracking close to expected levels, and we anticipate meeting the year-end budget.

Discussing the authorization of expenditures exceeding \$50,000.00 (LBM 4700), Siragusa noted that the list included annual contracts and expenditures anticipated for the next fiscal year. Additional information was provided for the Clayton Holdings, Dutzel's Catering, and Vicinity Energy Kansas City, Inc. payments.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Day. Approved unanimously.** The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Interim Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for May 2024: Payroll (05/02/24 net cash \$362,399 plus taxes \$124,589), (05/16/24 net cash \$369,541 plus taxes \$128,636), and (05/30/24 net cash \$380,587 plus taxes \$131,595) total amount of \$1,497,347; General Expense Payments including Checks (#13667-13930), in the amount of \$1,800,410. (LBM 4698)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for May 2024. (LBM 4699)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the contract with and/or make payment to the attached list of vendors in amounts not to exceed those detailed in the attached list of vendors for FY 2024 – 2025 and**

**ratify FY 2023 – 2024 expenses that exceeded estimates. (LBM 4670)**

LBM 4703 was moved up in the agenda to allow time for the Library's Lockton Representative to join the meeting for discussion of LBM 4701.

Discussing the renewal and purchase of licensing for databases (LBM 4703), Jones noted that there were no significant changes from last year and the costs are nearly flat.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Authorization to Renew and Purchase Licensing for Electronic Resources. Second by Day. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4703)**

Discussing the authorization to contract for insurance coverage, including for liability, cyber, and worker's compensation (LBM 4701), Siragusa introduced Todd Trent of Lockton Companies who discussed the marketing of our coverage and the decision to renew the property and casualty coverage with Travelers. Siragusa noted the increase in Cyber coverage cost was due to an increase in limit from \$1 million to \$2 million, as required for one of the Library's contracts.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Authorization to Contract with Travelers Company Inc., Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, CFC, and Midwest Public Risk and pay premiums and fees to Lockton Companies LLCs and Midwest Public Risk. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4701)**

Discussing the Preliminary Operating Budget for FY 2024-2025 (LBM 4702), Dominik noted that the Finance & Audit Committee met immediately preceding the Board meeting and reviewed and took action to recommend the Preliminary Operating Budget to the Board. Siragusa introduced Dakota Spencer, who joined the library as the new Chief Financial Officer, and Jami Hrenchir, who joined the library as the new Human Resources Director. Coogan introduced Misty Eytcheson as the new Director of Public Affairs.

Siragusa provided an overview of the Preliminary Operating Budget. Siragusa noted that property tax revenue has gone up 3% and on the expense side, Salaries and Fringe has gone up 6.5%, partly due to additional FTE to increase staff capacity, and the cost for contracted security services has increased. Siragusa shared the plan for salary increases, with cost-of-living increases at the beginning of the fiscal year and a performance increase in January.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt a revised 2024-2025 Preliminary Operating Budget. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4702)**

Browne requested that the Safety and Security Update come before taking action on the contract (LBM 4704).

Browne introduced King who gave a presentation on the Library's public safety initiatives. King provided an update on the timeline and progress of safety initiatives, including:

- De-escalation training for staff
- Relationship building with the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD)
- Continued relationship with the Downtown CID
- Patron Safety Engagement Ambassadors (currently at Bluford and North-East)

- New incident reporting system with analytics
- Off duty KCPD for high incidents times
- Peer Navigator program with University Health
- Partnership with KC Healthy Kids
- Updated patron Code of Conduct
- Upgraded cameras in the Central parking garage and additional overnight security
- Updated suspension guidelines for consistency
- Moving toward restorative practices with suspensions

King discussed some of the challenges faced because of the unique needs that public libraries have, particularly when working with private security companies rather than in-house. She noted that our libraries are safe spaces, with only a small number of more serious issues that might result in suspension, but that those incidents can have a large impact on staff and patrons. Jones shared that the relationship with the Downtown CID security is more like that of in-house security because the officers are part of the CID and are hired specifically for the Library. They do have turnover, but they understand our goals and are focused on safety for the Library and Downtown. Faris shared that a grant was received for KC Healthy Kids who are working with organizations that serve youth and want to assist with trauma-related experiences. There will be two cohorts and training provided for staff.

Discussing the authorization to contract with Signal of Kansas City for Security Officer Services (LBM 4704), Siragusa shared that Signal Security is the top-rated vendor and are currently on a month-to-month contract. The proposed contract would be for one year, with two options to renew. Signal Security will provide security at all Library locations except Central.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Authorization to Contract with Signal of Kansas City for Security Officer Services at Bluford, North-East, Plaza, Ruiz, Southeast, Trails West, Waldo, and Westport Branches. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4704)**

Discussing the Director’s Report (LBM 4705), Browne shared we are rolling through the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Browne thanked the staff for a job well done.

Perkins-McGuinness shared the Kansas City Royals on the field celebration of the Library’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. More information is forthcoming.

Coogan provided a reminder of the September 24<sup>th</sup> event with Margaret Atwood at Central and confirmed that award-winning best-selling author Sonia Maria Sotomayor will be at Central Library on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to do a reading and a meet and greet.

**Motion by Dominik to adjourn. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

---

Secretary

---

Date