

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – July 16, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Claudia Oñate Greim

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
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Sharla Harris, Administrative 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 4:35 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and the June 18, 2024, Finance and Audit Committee Meeting. Second by Kemper. 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.)

Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Dominik to consider items 4.1 and 4.2 separately.

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4706), Siragusa noted two items: the final payment to Bradbury Miller Associates for the hiring of the new CEO was made and a payment to Washington Speakers Bureau Inc. for a September event with Sharon McMahon.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4707), Siragusa provided a brief overview of the Financial Statements. The fiscal year ended June 30, but staff are still doing accruals for payables, so total expenses for FY 24 will go up by the time the general ledger is closed. Revenue is lower than budgeted with property tax at 98.8% of projections but salaries and fringe expenditures came in lower due to vacancies and attrition. Overall, we expect to have a surplus of \$500,000 which would roll into the General Fund balance. The audited end of year statements will be presented at the August Board meeting.

Day inquired about the timing of the property taxes. Siragusa responded that we know what we have received to date, but there will be an accounting entry to estimate what will be received in the next 60 days. There is still approximately \$1 million pending in protested taxes.

Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Williams. 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 June 2024: Payroll (06/13/24 net cash \$374,228 plus taxes \$127,829) and (06/27/24 net cash \$404,108 plus taxes \$148,608) total amount of \$1,054,773; General Expense Payments including Checks (#13931-14243), in the amount of \$1,472,067. (LBM 4706)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for June 2024. (LBM 4707)

Discussing the Director's Report (LBM 4708), Siragusa noted that Hohl was officially inaugurated as president of the American Library Association (ALA) at a ceremony during the 2024 conference. Hohl also won several awards including the Inaugural Spectrum Change Maker Award by ALA. Siragusa noted Hohl will be present at an upcoming Board meeting to talk about the resources of the ALA.

Dominik, Smirnova, Williams, and Browne shared highlights from the 2024 ALA Annual Conference, including:

- Attending the Coretta Scott King Book Award reception,

- A presentation of a case study on controversial public events,
- A session on implementing DEI work in libraries,
- Meeting authors and connecting with librarians and other library supporters from a wide range of library systems, and
- Enthusiasm of attendees from libraries across the country for the work of Kansas City Public Library and for Cindy Hohl's inauguration as ALA President.

Faris gave an update on the Summer Reading Program. She reported that last year ended with 12,889 individuals registered and there are currently 12,232 registered participants for 2024 with a month left to go. Faris noted that the Library added adults to the Summer Reading Program in 2017 and registration since that time has grown from 3,500 to over 12,000 (with 5,000 of those being adults and many whole families that participate). Registration has been strong across the system, including smaller branches – Sugar Creek, Ruiz, and Westport are all approaching three hundred in the Summer Reading Program. Faris thanked the Philanthropy team for securing funds for Summer Reading kickoffs at each of the Branches and for temporary Summer Reading Assistant positions (previously funded through the VISTA program) which allow teens to have a summer job working with the Library. She noted that 10 teens who were formerly hired as summer assistants through the VISTA program have since been hired, primarily as substitutes which provides flexible hours as they continue their education.

Faris highlighted other summer youth activities and programs, including:

- 15 youth participated in the Tween Summer Camp which included attending their first ever baseball game, compliments of the Royals Foundation.
- The Library's first afterhours event for tweens with 175 participants ranging from 8-12 years old, was held at the Plaza Library.

Jones gave an overview of the partnership with The Prospect KC to operate The Nook coffee bar and learning lab at Central Library. Food at the café will be prepared by students enrolled in a job training program designed as a high-impact solution to empower lives, disrupt poverty, and cultivate community. The Nook grand opening will be held on August 7th and the café will be open starting at 8:00 for employees and from 9:00 to 2:00 for the public.

Discussing the 150th Anniversary Update, Coogan thanked everyone who attended the Ari Shapiro event, noting that there were over 550 attendees. For library card sign-up month, the Library is working with Made in KC, who will be putting QR codes on their coffee sleeves that will go to our library card sign-up webpage. Coogan provided a reminder of the September 24th event with Margaret Atwood at Central and confirmed that award-winning best-selling author Sonia Maria Sotomayor will be at Central Library, through a partnership with the Coterie Theatre, on August 2nd to do a children's reading at 10:00 a.m. and a meet and greet at 11:00 a.m.

Discussing New Business, Browne shared that Abby Yellman, the Library's new CEO, will begin on August 5th. Browne will work with administration staff to schedule a Board Retreat, targeting October or early November.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Secretary

Date