

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – April 18, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Administrative Annex.

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

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive
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
Angela Fencel, Director of Finance
Kim Gile, Branch Services and Engagement Director
Beth Hill, Resources Specialist
Cindy Hohl, Director of policy Analysis and Operational
Support
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach & Community
Engagement
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive
Services
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for
Philanthropy
Beccah Rendall, Library VISTA Project Manager
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer
Karen Weitzel, Chief People Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Lava Dreams
Jasmine Nastasi

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023, Regular Board meeting. Second by Howard-Barnes. 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.)

Request by Dominik to consider the consent agenda.

Motion by Dominik to affirm the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Howard-Barnes. 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 March 2023: Payroll (3/9/23 net cash \$305,730 plus taxes \$106,498) and (3/23/23 net cash \$317,242 plus taxes \$112,481) total amount of \$841,951; General Expense Payments including Checks (#10264-10572), in the amount of \$1,157,826. (LBM 4620)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for March 2023 (LBM 4621)

Kemper entered the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Snell entered the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with Twin City Security, Inc. ("Twin City") for security officer services at the Bluford, North-East, Plaza, Southeast, Trails West, Waldo and Westport branches and special events for an annual amount not to exceed \$480,000. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4622)

Motion by Snell to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the payment to Isom Collective LLC ("Isom") for design fees and the purchase of furniture and fixtures for the renovation of the north end of the third floor of the Central Library at an amount not to exceed \$95,900. Second by Dominik. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4623)

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to finalize a contract with Chamberlin Contracting Inc. ("Chamberlin") to provide construction repair services for the Central Library's parking garage for a total cost not to exceed \$156,287. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4624)

Motion by Kenney to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize travel for up to four Trustees to attend the American Library Association (ALA)

Annual conference, held from June 22, 2023, to June 27, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois in total amount not to exceed \$2,450 per person for a total of \$9,800 in accordance with Library Board Policies 031 and 032. Second by Dominik. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4625)

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to place on the policy calendar the proposed revised Policy 104 Library Bill of Rights in accordance with Library Board Policy 002. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4626)

Christensen introduced Jasmine Nastasi and Lava Dreams from Stellar Image Studios (SIS), who presented the storyboard for the Library history video being produced for the 150th anniversary. Nastasi gave a brief introduction to their local, woman-owned, full-service production company. Dreams described the progressive and celebrative tone of the video and their plans for content and production. Trustees were invited to complete a questionnaire to share their own ideas.

Oñate-Greim arrived at the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Siragusa introduced Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach and Community Engagement, and Beth Hill, Community Resources Manager, to discuss the Library's Peer Navigator program. This program is in partnership with the University Health and funded by a grant from the Health Forward Foundation. More than 800 peer interactions with patrons have taken place at the Bluford Library since the program began in March 2022. Peer Navigators report that the greatest need is for resources and support, specifically one-on-one communication with patrons in the branches. The grant-funded Peers are certified mental health workers who have the time, tools, training, and lived experience to help support patrons in crisis. This model facilitates building relationships and trust, increases a sense of belongingness, and creates a safe space for patrons. Peers provide support beyond what library staff can provide, serving as an immediate referral point for staff and decreasing the need for security and police involvement by de-escalating situations when possible. The Health Forward Foundation is interested in funding a second year at Bluford, and the Library is exploring options to expand this program to the North-East and Westport branches.

Williams and Smirnova left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Herron discussed the Director's Report with the Board (LBM 4627) and highlighted that Cindy Hohl, Director of Policy Analysis and Operational Support, has been elected president of the American Library for 2024-25.

Christensen and Perkins-McGuinness gave a brief overview of the budgets for the Heartland Book Festival and 150th Anniversary Celebration. Herron shared that the keynote speaker for the 150th luncheon and keynote event would be the inaugural Bloomberg Public Innovation Fellow, Tommi Laitio.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Secretary

Date