

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – August 29, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

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

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Community  
Engagement  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Angela Fencl, Director of Finance / Chief Financial Officer  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive  
Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Earhart  
Kieth McGovern

\* 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 July 18, 2023, 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.)

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

Discussing the expenditures approval, (LBM 4648) Siragusa discussed some of the expenditures and Perkins-McGuinness explained that the payment to Miranda Consulting is for major gift fundraising strategy guidance to the Philanthropy Department over several months. Dominik requested that the Board receive an update on the Library's philanthropy workplan at an upcoming meeting.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Kemper. 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 July 2023: Payroll (7/13/23 net cash \$327,248 plus taxes \$115,786), and (6/15/23 net cash \$343,982 plus taxes \$123,321) total amount of \$910,337; General Expense Payments including Checks (#11256-11541), in the amount of \$2,796,897. (LBM 4648)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for July 2023. (LBM 4649)**

Kemper inquired about the status of Jackson County protested taxes. Siragusa shared that as of the most recent legislative meeting the County had 24,000 protests still open. We are expecting new assessed value information on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Collection rates will likely be lower for the current year, but any impact in cash flow can be managed with our fund balance and we can recoup the tax revenue in the following year.

**Motion by Snell to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to re-affirm Library Board Policy 004 (Code of Ethics). Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4650)**

Fencl introduced Earhart and McGovern of FORVIS, LLP who presented a summary of the audit results noting that FORVIS anticipates issuing a clean, unmodified opinion on the final financial statements. The group discussed changes and recommended best practices related to changes to GASB.

Herron highlighted Welcoming Week, from September 8-17, and asked for any questions about the Director's Report (LBM 4651). In the interest of time, the Herron and Board agreed to move the ALA Highlights to the next meeting to save time for a closed session discussion.

Dominik commented on the MSN news piece about the Library's bookmobile services, giving kudos to Isaac Halberstadt (Mobile Services) for a great interview. She also noted that next month is Public Safety Preparedness month and suggested a presentation on the Library's efforts in this area.

Browne briefly shared highlights from the Ad Hoc Committee on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting that took place August 25, 2023. He noted that staff are working to schedule another Committee meeting in September and invited interested Trustees to join the meeting and to provide feedback and suggestions to staff who are working on the initiative.

Discussing the Heartland Book Festival, taking place the weekend of October 6<sup>th</sup>, Browne provided some highlights of the planned activities and programming. Trustees will be receiving materials and suggested talking points to assist in promoting the festival to community members.

Williams inquired about the status of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer position. Siragusa reported that the response has been good. Staff are currently reviewing applications, establishing a hiring committee, and are incorporating input from the Racial Equity Team. A rubric has been created to ensure interviews are consistent across all candidates. We hope to complete the hiring process within two months.

**Motion by Dominik to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously.**

The Board was in closed session from 5:20 p.m. until 7:09 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

---

Secretary

---

Date