

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

HELD ON
October 10, 2022

A meeting of the Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library was held on Monday, October 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM via Zoom and in-person in the board room at New Main.

The following Board Members were present:

Dr. M. Blackwell	Ms. J. Pauer
Mr. C. Erlewine	Ms. S. Shumate
Ms. S. Haden	Ms. A. Silbernagel
Mr. J. Holliday	Dr. K. Sullivan
Mr. T. Hurney	Ms. C. Tawney
Mr. J. Jarrett	Mr. B. Thomas
Ms. B. King	Dr. R. Wallace

KCPL staff members present were Ms. Erika Connelly, Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Ms. Marsha Alford, Ms. Adele Thumm, Mr. Stan Howell, Mr. Teddy Claypool, Mr. Tim Venitsanos and Mr. Michael Polak.

Others in attendance were Mr. Christopher Winton, library counsel.

Mr. Thomas presided and reported that a quorum was present. The Director served as Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the minutes of the regular Board meeting on September, 2022 were approved.

Director's Report

Ms. Connelly discussed the arrival of "Charlie Carts," to the main library. These are mobile kitchens geared towards children in the K-5 grade level. Last year, the Library Foundation applied for a City of Charleston ARPA grant to cover these and other new projects at Main.

Election Day is November 8th, the Library Levy will be on the ballot. Ms. Connelly explained that there are limitations as to what staff may do while on work time. She is currently working on an "elevator speech" to share with the entire system. A big focus is reminding the public that this is not a new tax. It will cost approximately 5-10 dollars per person.

Ms. Haden is planning to coordinate "honk and waves" to promote yes votes for the Levy. A Levy promotion subcommittee was formed at the meeting with Ms. Haden, Dr. Blackwell, Ms. Sibernagel, and Mr. Hurney heading up the effort.

Mr. George Manahan is running the “Loving My Library” online presence and has yard signs available. He is also working with the Board of Education to ensure a successful rollout.

An important way to raise awareness of the Levy is the use of staff and board members’ personal social media accounts.

Passage of Constitutional Amendment 2 and enactment of the tax cut by the legislature could put the Library’s funding in serious jeopardy. WVLA came out against the Amendment. Mr. Thomas stated he wanted to focus on being for the Library Levy rather than doing work as KCPL to oppose Amendment Two. He noted that if the Amendment does pass, he will be a regular presence at the legislature this upcoming session “to make sure we have a seat at the table.”

Mrs. Connelly invited Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Howell to discuss the upcoming 2022 West Virginia Book Festival. On Friday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 22, the first in-person Book Festival in three years will be held at the Charleston Convention Center. Elin Hildebrand, Marc Brown, V.E. Schwab, Charlie Ryan, and Mitch Evans are each featured authors.

Ms. Haden noted that the Library’s cafe now opens at 7 a.m. each morning. Ms. Connelly explained it was an easy adjustment and security is on hand to make sure patrons are only using the cafe space until the full library opens at 9.

Mr. Thomas asked the staff about the future of Sunday hours. He stated that many people in his circles ask him about it and respond enthusiastically to the possibility of their return.

Ms. Connelly explained the possibility is currently being discussed and planned. She’s set January 2023 as a target date for their re-launch.

Reports of Committees

1. Long-Range Planning

Dr. Sullivan explained his committee is presently in listening mode. They started interviewing to gather facts and ideas for the next LRP. Erika was the first interviewee, in October they will speak to Board Leadership, Mr. Thomas, and Ms. Haden.

2. Personnel

Ms. King explained that the Personnel committee met last week. She and Ms. Alford shared that there are currently only nine vacancies in the system, down from 31 in January 2022. Ms. Alford credited the Board’s decision to implement a \$2.00/hr raise for all positions beginning on July 1. She said after the rate increase, the quality and quantity of applicants soared. She feels the Library is now much more competitive in the market.

The committee is also reviewing a new Dress Code policy for all staff that they expect will come before the board in a few months.

3. KCPL Special Properties Holding Properties

Mr. Thomas gave a brief update on Special Properties’ current status. On October 1st, PrayWorks adjusted its rate from a fixed fee to an hourly charge. Paramount is completing some loose ends to get

to final touches on the building complete. Mr. Thomas feels these are all positive steps for the final pieces of this project.

4. Library Foundation of Kanawha County

The Foundation Board approved a new member in its last meeting, Mr. Dave Pray. Ms. Connelly noted Mr. Pray became “more than just someone we hired to run a project, he really cares about how this building functions and operates.” Mr. Pray helped facilitate Music Mondays and Fitness Fridays, two programming events that take place in the front of the Main Library.

There being no further discussion of business, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting. The Motion was seconded, and the meeting ADJOURNED at 4:38 PM

President

Secretary