

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

Held on
February 15, 2023

The Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 4:00 PM. This was a hybrid meeting held in the Board Room at New Main and via Zoom. The meeting was held on Wednesday instead of the usual second Monday of the month due to a scheduling conflict with a West Virginia Library Association event.

The following Board members were present:

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

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

Others in attendance were Chris Winton, library counsel.

Mr. Thomas presided and reported that a quorum was present. He thanked the board for their strong attendance at Monday's (February 13th) Legislative Reception hosted by the WVLA at the Culture Center in Charleston. The Director served as secretary. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Before the minutes were approved, Mr. Polak explained to the board he had one addition to make to the distributed minutes. Mr. Jarrett was erroneously omitted from the role.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the minutes of the Board Meeting on January 9, 2023 were approved with the correction added.

Director's Report

Ms. Connelly called the Board's attention to a chart in her monthly report that featured January's social media engagements and the stats for KCPL's brand new mobile app. In its first three weeks (launched January 9) there were 589 new subscribers. They logged in to the app over 4,500 times, renewed over 9,500 items, and the top click in the app is the eResource tab. The system's overall circulation is up by over 16,000 items compared to January 2022, Ms. Connelly explained this as a post-Covid recovery. She intends to begin sharing stats over a 3-5 year period to provide further detail.

Ms. Connelly also reviewed financials from December 2022. The highest cost on the register is for employee health insurance. Holiday decorations for New Main from Winter Floral and audit services were also noted.

Mr. Thomas asked for clarification on a statistic regarding digital circulation, 44 percent of all Jan 2023 circulations came from the digital collection. Mr. Hurney asked if this was consistent with libraries nationwide. KCPL's current trends – half of monthly circulations are digital, foot traffic into the library going up, physical circulations going down – are consistent with nationwide trends. Ms. Connelly noted that a real concern for both KCPL and libraries nationwide is that overall circulations are going down.

Dr. Blackwell asked that the Monthly Circulation By Physical Format pie chart also include percentages in the future. He noted that he sent the Elk Valley advisory board the Circulation by Location Chart and noted their branch is second in the system to Main.

Ms. Silbernagel asked how the 24/7 kiosk is boosting Clendenin's numbers. Ms. Connelly replied that in the first two weeks of opening, they checked out about half of the items held in the machine. She will provide a breakdown between the kiosk and the Clendenin branch in future reports.

Ms. Connelly invited the Board to the 2023 Staff Development Day on Wednesday, March 29.

Finally, Ms. Connelly brought up the passing of former Library Director Mr. Nick Winowich. Mr. Winowich served as the KCPL Library Director from 1956 to 1986. In the fall, he attended the Library's Donor Gala at New Main. He'd recently turned 100.

Action Items

1. Introduction of Mr. John Auge, a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Ms. Haden explained that the Membership Committee met with Mr. John Auge and is recommending him to fill Mr. Jim Withrow's vacant spot on the Board of Directors. Mr. Auge is the Creative Director and Partner at Auge, Gray, Drake Collective Works. The following resolution was ADOPTED by the board unanimously.

RESOLVED, that Ms. John Auge be recommended to the Kanawha County Board of Education as a Director of the Kanawha County Public Library for a term to end June 30, 2024.

2. Adoption of ALA's Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read/View statements

Included in the packet for this month were three documents from the American Library Association pertaining to every patron's right to information. The ALA's Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read/View statements were vetted by library counsel, Mr. Chris Winton. His recommendation is that the KCPL Board of Directors adopt them as is. Ms. Connelly explained that KCPL vets its collection very carefully to provide a variety of different viewpoints from which our patrons may choose. She stated that the adoption of the documents is timely given a climate in some states that favors censorship.

Dr. Blackwell, Mr. Hurney, and KCPL's Head of Children's Services, Ms. Terri McDougal, each spoke out against censoring library materials. The board had a robust discussion on KCPL's future policy and statements on this issue.

The board then unanimously APPROVED the adoption of the ALA's documents and Ms. Connelly read the following RESOLUTION into the record –

WHEREAS, The mission of the Kanawha County Public Library is to serve the people of Kanawha County and beyond as the premier source of information in a diverse community where learning and reading are revered and being well-informed is valued,

WHEREAS, Public libraries serve the entire community, with all its social, political, economic, religious, and cultural diversities and lifestyles,

WHEREAS, Public libraries protect the right of free speech by providing a wide diversity of materials and formats available to everyone,

WHEREAS, Public libraries provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues, and do not proscribe or remove materials because of personal, partisan or doctrinal disapproval,

WHEREAS, Public libraries provide materials, programs, and services for the interest and enlightenment of people of all ages in the community,

WHEREAS, Public libraries do not restrict access to library resources to avoid objections from parents or pressure groups,

WHEREAS, Parents, and only parents, have the right and the responsibility to restrict access of their children, and no others, to library resources,

RESOLVED, That the Kanawha County Public Library defends intellectual freedom and opposes censorship or discrimination against any group or segment of society,

RESOLVED, That the Kanawha County Public Library ADOPTS the following statements from the American Library Association: The Library Bill of Rights last amended on January 29, 2019, the Freedom to Read Statement last amended June 30, 2004, and the Freedom to View Statement endorsed January 10, 1990.

* The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the KCPL Board of Directors on February 15, 2023.

Committee Updates

1. Membership

Ms. Haden stated that with Ms. Auge joining KCPL now has a full board. She reviewed the attendance policy for Board meetings and explained that "if you have not attended recently at all, I've reached out to you, and we may be following up on whether you are interested in continuing to serve or not."

2. Financial Affairs

Mr. Hurney reviewed the committee's last meeting. Ms. Connelly is taking the advice of the recently completed audit, and statements in this month's director's report reflect it. She is also in the middle of reviewing the Library's insurance policies and is reviewing a potential change in the coverage.

Finally, the Library's two parking lot properties near the General Seafood market on Quarrier Street have been re-listed by relator Duke Jordan. The committee hopes they will garner interest and the Library will have a buyer soon.

3. Building

Mr. Jarrett met with Josh Pray and Ms. Connelly a few weeks ago to look over the area in the library damaged by a pipe freeze over Christmas weekend in 2022. They are currently looking into permanent preventative solutions so that this is not a future issue.

St. Albans is proceeding with changes in the electrical system in the branch. The remediation team completed their work to repair damage from the small fire in December. They are also still waiting for the delivery of the elevator to complete that project. It's scheduled to arrive later in February.

4. Long-Range Planning

Mr. Thomas shared the following update on behalf of Dr. Sullivan and Ms. Pauer:

The Long-Range Planning Committee met most recently with Main Library department heads. We will interview branch managers in two groups, next week and the week after. Then we will move on to Library Foundation board and leadership.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

President

Secretary