

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

Held on  
**March 13, 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:

Mr. J. Auge	Ms. J. Pauer
Dr. M. Blackwell	Ms. A. Silbernagel
Mr. T. Hurney	Dr. K. Sullivan
Mr. J. Jarrett	Ms. C. Tawney
Ms. B. King	

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

Others in attendance were Dave Pray, Owner's Representative and Library Foundation of Kanawha County Board member; and Chris Winton, library counsel.

In Mr. Thomas and Ms. Haden's absence, Second Vice President Ms. King presided and reported that a quorum was present. The Director served as secretary. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the minutes of the Board Meeting on February 15, 2023 were approved as distributed.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Connelly explained that she reformatted her monthly Director's Report so that it can be shared on the website. She wants to make it more open and accessible for the public to access.

She reviewed the check register and noted that the insurance costs are going up slightly due to the additions of the Tool Library and the Clendenin Kiosk.

The Legislative session ended, and the library legislation did not make it out of committee. The final budget bill is not available yet.

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. Resolution Honoring the Life and Legacy of Mr. Nicholas Winowich, Library Director 1956-1986**

On behalf of the Personnel committee, Ms. King read the following into the record. The resolution was ADOPTED unanimously without discussion:

WHEREAS, former director of the Kanawha County Public Library, Mr. Nicholas Winowich passed away on February 11, 2023, at the age of 100;

WHEREAS, Mr. Winowich served as the director of KCPL for 30 years from October of 1956 to November 1986;

WHEREAS, Mr. Winowich gave his warmth, enthusiasm, and unflagging energies to the aims and objectives of the KCPL system;

WHEREAS, under Mr. Winowich's leadership KCPL expanded from a single library facility to a true county-wide system with eight facilities;

WHEREAS, Mr. Winowich modernized KCPL by integrating its patron base and workforce;

WHEREAS, Mr. Winowich was an effective ambassador, both during and after his time as director, for KCPL to the general public and to its professional peers earning the system a merited reputation for Library Service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors acknowledges with heartfelt appreciation the life, work, and accomplishments of Mr. Nicholas Winowich; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board expresses its deepest sympathy to Mr. Winowich's family and loved ones, and that this resolution be spread across the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be sent to members of his family.

Ms. Silbernagel said that all three of his children told her at the funeral that attending the Donor Gala at New Main in October 2022 was the most important thing Mr. Winowich did in his final ten years. She thanked the staff for their part in getting him there.

## **Committee Updates**

### **1. Membership**

Ms. King introduced the Board of Directors to Mr. John Auge, whose membership was approved by the Board of Education in their March meeting. Mr. Auge will fill the vacant position on the board left by Mr. James Withrow.

### **2. Long-Range Planning**

Dr. Sullivan and the committee met with all the branch managers in their February sessions. He also took a tour of the Eastern locations – Marmet, Glasgow, and Riverside. He thanked Anthony for touring him. The committee will now meet with the Library Foundation Board in March.

### **3. Financial Affairs**

Ms. Connelly explained that at the last Financial Affairs meeting the committee reviewed budget items (like branch evaluations and contributions). They also discussed the remaining two parking lot properties near the General Seafood market on Quarrier Street and a potential buyer. The current audit is on track to be finished in April/May.

### **4. Building**

Mr. Jarrett asked if there was an update on St. Albans. Ms. Connelly reported that the elevator parts have now arrived and are on site. The library is still working with the insurance over repairs for the second floor and getting carpet and ceiling tiles replaced.

### **New Business:**

Ms. Connelly suggested forming a new special committee to focus on the Eastern branches. This will involve researching potential sites and new services. Ms. Silbernagel, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Blackwell each volunteered.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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President

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Secretary