

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

HELD ON
August 14, 2022

A meeting of the Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library was held on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM via Zoom and in-person in the board room at New Main.

The following Board Members were present:

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

Library Foundation Board of Kanawha County board members present were Mr. Tom Heywood, Mr. Bryan Cokeley, Mr. Dave Pray, and Ms. Fran Rollins.

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, Ms. Terri McDougal, Ms. Susan Murphy, and Mr. Michael Polak.

Others in attendance were Mr. Rob Cullin and Ms. Janet Nelson with Re-Thinking Libraries; and 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

The Board of Directors had two sets of minutes to approve in their packet.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the Board approved the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting on Friday, July 7, 2023

Director's Report

Ms. Connelly called the Board's attention to the committee calendar schedule in the packet, both the Financial Affairs and Public Services committees are due to meet before the end of August. Mr. Thomas is working on rosters for the current 23-24 fiscal year for each committee and hopes to have them ready for the September Board meeting.

A sneak peek at the space dedicated to the Otis Laury Nutritional Literacy Initiative will be held at New Main on Sunday, October 1st from 6-8:30 p.m. The following day (Monday, October 2nd) there will be a ribbon cutting in the space at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Connelly told members of each Board to expect invitations soon.

The new KCPL Bookmobile arrived on Thursday, August 10th. Ms. Connelly plans to bring the Bookmobile to New Main for the next Board meeting so that members may tour it after the September meeting.

Presentation of Strategic Planning Findings of ReThinking Libraries

Ms. Connelly introduced two guest speakers to the Board. Mr. Rob Cullen and Ms. Janet Nelson of ReThinking Libraries. Their organization oversaw a user survey that went out to the public earlier in the summer. The findings will be incorporated by the Long-Range Planning Committee into the written plan for the next five years. Mr. Cullen and Ms. Nelson provided a full review of the information gathered in an 83-page packet available for the Board. Their presentation focused on highlights including:

- The community's opinion of the library is very positive. The organization is seen as a leader in building literacy, learning, and community.
- Wi-Fi and computer resources stood out as an important service cited.
- There was dissatisfaction expressed with the collection. There are reasonable explanations for this trend accounting to Covid, relocation of New Main during construction, etc. The physical collection at KCPL has a score of one, the average item at KCPL checks out once a year.
- The statistics indicate that 43 percent of the system's total checkouts are digital. This is the highest percentage documented by ReThinking Libraries. Their previous high was about 25 percent.
- Music CDs, Audiobooks, and DVDs are all in significant decline. Many libraries are removing these collections completely. Ms. Nelson advised considering the county's wi-fi issues before exploring this elimination at KCPL because digital streaming is not available to all.
- KCPL is better or at average than all libraries explored in West Virginia.
- It is average or below average than other similar-size libraries in the region.
- Youth and Teen programming stands out as a real strength of the system. KCPL is offering double the number of programs and has double the attendees of the average library in West Virginia.
- The Main library is responsible for 37 percent of the usage rate for the entire system.
- Riverside library has the highest usage rate per square foot. The demand there currently is greater than their available space.

After a brief question and answer section, Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Cullen and Ms. Nelson for their time and diligence. The two will provide more data for Ms. Connelly extracted from the survey over the next week.

Reports of Committees

1. Library Foundation of Kanawha County

Mr. Heywood explained that he and members of the Foundation Board attended this meeting to hear the results of the ReThinking survey. The Foundation will affirm all goals set by the Long-Range plan. He feels

that there is a lot of momentum and goodwill built up in the community from the New Main facility, and he looks forward to taking advantage of it for new projects.

The Otis Laury Nutritional Literacy Initiative is the Foundation's current focus. The idea came out of a visit by Ms. Rachael Worby to the New library shortly after it re-opened in May 2022. "She saw Otis bringing plants into the building and told me, 'I have an idea,'" Mr. Heywood recalled. Ms. Connelly affirmed that there is a full library team working on the space and program ideas. The initial goal for the project was to raise \$250,000 for a long-term endowment to keep the project funded for many years. They've exceeded this goal and the final total is projected to come out at about \$350,000.

Mr. Heywood then gave the board two brief updates on the future of the Foundation. By the end of the year, they will adopt new rules in their bylaws to set term limits for all members. The goal is to blend experience with fresh eyes. Members will have the option of serving three three-year terms. After those nine years, they will have to come off the board for at least one full year before serving again. Mr. Heywood joked that he is "undertaking a personal odyssey" to step down from the board. He plans to pass leadership on to Mr. Bryan Cokeley (current Vice President of the Foundation) in December 2023.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Hurney on behalf of the Financial Affairs committee gave the Board a brief update on the Library's three properties on Charleston's East End. There is interest from a buyer. At Mr. Winton's suggestion, the Board tabled the rest of the discussion for the Executive Session.

Mr. Thomas asked for a motion that the Board Meeting go into Executive Session on the basis that the Board would be discussing contractual and potential litigation matters. Staff members and other meeting attendees were excused as KCPL Board of Directors went into Executive Session with Mr. Winton, counsel for the library; and Ms. Connelly, Library Director, remaining to present advice to the Board of Directors in advisory capacities.

Upon a motion made, and seconded, the Executive Session began at 4:54 PM.

At 5:20 PM, Ms. Connelly excused herself from the room during a discussion of her contract.

At the close of the Executive Session at 5:40 PM, the Board re-entered the public session of the meeting, and KCPL staff and other attendees rejoined the meeting.

The Personnel Committee made a motion to amend the Library Director's salary to \$130,000 retroactive to July 1, 2023. The motion was seconded and ADOPTED unanimously.

There being no further discussion of business, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting. The Motion was seconded, and the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:43 PM

President

Secretary