

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### **Ad Hoc Committee on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees November 15, 2023**

The Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne (Chair)  
Laura Dominik  
Michelle Smirnova  
Denesha Snell  
India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive  
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator &  
Project Specialist  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and  
Community Engagement  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth & Family Engagement  
Sharla Harris, Administrative 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

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Christensen provided an update on the Community Advisory Committee.

- Confirmed members include Antonio Byrd, Erin Hestand, Judy Kirk, Mayor Quinton Lucas, Pat MacDonald Julie Mulhern, and Jillian Rainingbird.
- Staff met with the Community Advisory Committee to share the plans and request feedback.
- Staff have reached out to each member individually to discuss how they would like to be involved with the anniversary year (e.g. fundraising, community outreach).

Coogan gave an update on the speaker series planned for the year:

- All four signature speakers have been confirmed and will be promoted in the November events mailing.
- Staff are working on other supporting activities, such as music performances or photo booths, to elevate these events to something extra special.

Perkins-McGuinness provided a fundraising update:

- The total fundraising goal is \$165,000.
- To date \$65,000 in grants and pledges has been secured.
- Contributors include the Courtney S. Turner Foundation, Kissick Company, J.E. Dunn Construction, and 15 & the Mahomies, along with several other contributors and programming partners.
- There is an additional \$140,000 in pending requests out to six different funders.

Christensen gave an overview of upcoming events:

- November 17<sup>th</sup> is the unveiling of the Library Streetcar
- December 5<sup>th</sup> is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – with a luncheon; an evening reception featuring live music from the Phantastics and Vine Street Brewing’s “One for the Books” commemorative brew; and the kickoff speaker event with Tommi Laitio.
- Library locations will have their own celebrations as well, with tote bags, pins and cookies provided for the community.

Coogan shared that she is working on adding a photo bus as part of the celebration. Patrons would have the opportunity to record a 30-second video of what they love about the library. Videos would be incorporated into promotions and events in February and throughout the year. She added that the 150<sup>th</sup> Magazine should be ready for the upcoming event on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming dates of note:

- December 5<sup>th</sup> - Vine Street Brewing commemorative "One for the Books" Library beer will be available at the evening reception.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> - J. Rieger Co has designated the Library as their Community Cocktails Partner for December, proceeds of beverage sales during the happy hour event will be donated to the library and a special bottled cocktail will be for sale all month, which will also include a donation of a percentage of proceeds.

Williams expressed appreciation for the thoughtful approach of the Vine Street Brewery signature brew. She encouraged the Library to promote this as an inclusive and historic occasion of a black-owned brewery on historic Vine Street creating a special beverage for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kansas City Public Library.

Browne suggested scheduling a spring event at Vine Street to tie into the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be scheduled for January 2024.

**With all scheduled business completed, Browne adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.**

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Pete Browne, Chair  
Ad Hoc Committee on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Date