

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – November 16, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper, President
Claudia Oñate Greim
Laura Dominik
Pete Browne
Billie Howard Barnes
Susie Kenney
Michelle Smirnova
India Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Denesha Snell

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive
Jensen Adams, Energy and Sustainability Officer
Jessica Addo, Administrative Officer
Amanda Barnhart, North-East Branch Manager
Janice Bolin, Director of Finance
Amy Brost, Manager of Special Projects
Jackie Brown, Facilities Services Specialist
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and
Community Engagement
Crystal Faris, Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Dylan Jones, Tech Access Volunteer Program Developer VISTA
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Dawn Mackey, Technical Services Manager
Megan McNaughton, Tech Access Coordinator
Amy Morris, Ruiz Branch Supervisor
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach & Community
Engagement
Wendy Pearson, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive
Services
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer
Jeni Starr, Health & Wellness Specialist
Debbie Stoppello, Director of Library Collections
Steve Wieberg, Writer / Copy Editor

Kemper called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Motion by Browne to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Regular Board meeting and November 8, 2021 Operations Committee Meeting. Second by Smirnova. Approved unanimously.

(Note: As a matter of Board convention, the Chair votes only when his/her vote would affect the outcome of the vote. In all "recorded" votes, the vote of the Chair appears only when it has actually been cast and when it has had an effect on the disposition of the motion. Notations of "approved unanimously" mean all members, other than the Chair, voting affirmatively.)

Howard Barnes arrived 4:34 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Smirnova. Approved unanimously. The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for October 2021: Payroll (10/21/21 net cash \$290,566 plus taxes \$107,283) and (11/04/21 net cash \$271,735 plus taxes \$99,134) total amount of \$768,718; General Expense Payments including Checks (#6676-6833), in the amount of \$1,106,271. (LBM 4518)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for October 2021. (LBM 4519)

Herron stated that during the strategic visioning process the Library's Resignation Policy was identified as outdated and in need of updating to reflect a more flexible and mutually cooperative process.

Motion by Dominik to authorize the formal adoption of the proposed Resignation Policy in accordance with Library Board Policy 002 as placed on the Policy Calendar in October 2021. Second by Howard Barnes. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4520)

Herron introduced Tech Access and Wendy Pearson, Strategic Initiatives Manager. Tech Access participates in the Kansas City Coalition for Digital Inclusion and manages the TechConnect Hotline, Accelerating Promising Practices Project, and Career Online High School. In addition they collaborate internally with OneNorth, the Outreach Department, Community Specialists, ECF lending program, and all Library locations. Pearson said their mission is connecting communities to promote equitable access to technology and support the learning and application of digital skills in an increasingly digital world. The resources they provide include tech coach volunteers, the mobile computer lab, learning pathways, and community partnerships.

Williams arrived 4:45 p.m. Oñate Greim arrived 4:55 p.m.

Herron discussed the Director's Report with the Board (LBM 4521) and provided an update on the strategic visioning process. Herron introduced Mary Olive Joyce and Amanda Barnhart to provide an update on the racial equity team. Since the last update, the focus

groups have concluded, and the feedback was compiled into roughly 20 themes which the staff had the opportunity to vote on. The top three internal focus areas are: investing in our employees, culture, and hiring and retention. The team has begun work on an action plan, but is looking forward to the expertise of a DEI consultant especially in the determination of benchmarks. The Board expressed their support of the team's work.

Kemper requested the annual evaluation for Herron be distributed to the Board.

Motion by Browne to adjourn. Second by Dominik. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Secretary

Date