

COMMITTEE NOTES

Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary Meeting Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees October 3, 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 Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne (Chair)
Laura Dominik
Claudia Oñate Greim
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
* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Christensen provided an update on the Community Advisory Committee.

- Staff have reached out to potential members, including those suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee.
- Confirmed members so far include Judy Kirk, Erin Hestand, Jillian Rainingbird, Pat MacDonald, and Antonio Byrd. Asks are out to Mayor Lucas and several others.
- The Library is working to schedule a meeting with confirmed members in late October. The Ad Hoc Committee will be invited to that meeting once the time is confirmed.

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

- Tommi Laitio is confirmed for the kickoff event on December 5, 2023
- Eve Ewing has just been secured for March 8, 2024

- A contract with Ari Shapiro for a June 2024 is nearly complete, there is a possibility of a partnership with KCUR to bring him in for their RadioActive event
- Margaret Atwood is confirmed for September 24, 2024

Perkins-McGuinness provided a fundraising update:

- Total revised budget is for \$175,000
- About 1/3 of the 150th budget is coming from the regular programming and events budget – these will be programs and activities that we do annually that will be designed to tie into the 150th themes
- About 1/3 is coming from existing Special Accounts, comprised of gifts and grants that have been made to the Library over time in support of programming and related initiatives
- The last 1/3 will be from new gifts and grants that will be pursued specifically for the 150th – the budget plan includes asks from at least 44 donors but Philanthropy plans to reach out to as many prospective donors as possible
- She invited Ad Hoc Committee members to review the list of prospects and to be involved in any ways they would like to be. Oñate Greim and Dominik requested that the list be sent to them.

The Ad Hoc Committee viewed the initial version of the 150th video, filmed and produced by Stellar Image Studios, which will be shown on December 5th as part of the 150th Anniversary celebration events. Ad Hoc Committee members have the opportunity to provide feedback by adding notes to designated areas within the video that will go directly to Stellar Image Studios, or notes can be emailed to Christensen directly.

Stellar Image Studios will also be making a Heartland Book Festival video, which will include brief interviews.

Christensen met with Branch Managers to discuss plans and opportunities for the December 5th branch birthday-themed parties. She has collected their initial feedback and will add additional ideas as provided to come up with a system-wide plan for the celebrations.

Christensen gave an overview of plans for the December 5th luncheon in Helzberg, which will be a smaller gathering focused on civic leaders and elected officials, highlighting Tommi Laitio's work talking to city leaders about the importance of libraries. The list for the evening event and luncheon will be sent to Ad Hoc Committee members for review and addition of any additional suggested attendees.

Upcoming dates of note:

- October 13th – Vine Street Brewing is brewing their “One for the Books” beer, which will be available at the December 5th evening reception
- December 13th – J. Rieger Co has designated the Library as their Community Cocktails Partner for December, proceeds of beverage sales during the 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
- Other strategic partnerships include: Charlie Hustle Communi-tee, Betty Rae's, and KC Streetcar

Browne suggested that the December 13th J. Rieger & Co event double as a Board holiday event.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be on November 15, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. online.

With all scheduled business completed, Browne adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Pete Browne, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary

Date