

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – March 15th, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President
Laura Dominik
Jonathan Kemper
India Williams
Michelle Smirnova
Denesha Snell

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Claudia Oñate Greim
Billie Howard Barnes
Susie Kenney

STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Addo, Purchasing Manager
Amanda Barnhart, North-East Branch Manager
Janice Bolin, Director of Finance
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and
Community Engagement
Brianna Daniels, Administrative Officer
Andrea Ellis, Director of Strategic Learning
Crystal Faris, Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Kim Gile, Community Specialists Leader
John Herron, Chief Executive
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach & Community
Engagement
Dawn Mackey, Technical Services Manager
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive
Services
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy
Beccah Rendall, Library VISTA Project Manager
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer
Jeni Starr, Health & Wellness Specialist
Debbie Stoppello, Director of Library Collections
Kaite Stover, Director of Reader's Services
Anthony Trakas, Finance Manager
Jennifer Tufts, Community Engagement Project Manager
Steve Wieberg, Writer / Copy Editor
Karen Weitzel, Chief People Officer

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Motion by Snell to approve the minutes of the February 15th, 2022 Regular Board meeting. Second by Dominik. 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.)

Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Snell. 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 February 22: Payroll (2/10/22 net cash \$299,905 plus taxes \$113,508) and (2/24/22 net cash \$296,722 plus taxes \$111,3652) total amount of \$596,627; General Expense Payments including Checks (#7406-7606), in the amount of \$1,960,043. (LBM 4537)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for February 2022 (LBM 4538)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the contract with and/or make payment to the attached list of vendors in amounts not to exceed those detailed in the attached list of vendors for FY 2021 - 2022. (LBM 4539).

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to informally project the Library's nonbinding tax levy for tax year 2022 pursuant to the provisions of Section 137.243(1) RSMo. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4540)

The Board discussed the process for appointing a member of the Board of Trustees as a representative to The Kansas City Public Library Foundation (LBM 4541). The Foundation bylaws do not address the processes by which the Library Board appoints a representative to the Foundation Board. With the January election of Pete Browne for President of the Library Board, Kemper was brought forward for appointment to the Foundation Board with the intent of maintaining the current Foundation Board membership to facilitate its reactivation after many years of being effectively dormant. Kemper's involvement and familiarity with the Library Foundation since its original formation could be valuable in the early stages of reactivation. Dominik, Smirnova, Snell, and Williams provided comments and requested that the Library Board receive further information about the history of the Library Foundation, its bylaws, and the qualifications required for the Library Board's appointee. The Board agreed that establishing official policies and procedures for the process was important to address but also acknowledged that there are valid reasons to facilitate activation of the Foundation Board as soon as possible to enable fundraising efforts for large Library projects such as branch renovations. Dominik

recommended that the vote be tabled until the Library Board receives the additional information requested and Trustees have an opportunity to indicate whether they have an interest in becoming the appointed representative.

Motion by Dominik to table the recommendation of the Chief Executive to appoint Jonathan Kemper to The Kansas City Public Library Foundation as representative member from the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously (Kemper abstained). (LBM 4541)

Motion by Snell to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the purchase of computers and peripherals from Dell Technologies (“Dell”) at an amount not to exceed \$125,000. Second by Dominik. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4542)

Motion by Kemper to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with KJR Consulting (“KJR”) for diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting services at a cost not to exceed \$121,000, including estimated travel expenses. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4543)

Jones introduced Kaite Stover, Director of Reader’s services. Stover presented the significance of the library’s history and growth with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grants. The library received \$20,000 to put towards several events, activities, and materials related to the NEA Big Read choice *An American Sunrise* by 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States, Joy Harjo. Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy, detailed the effort and collaboration to bring Harjo to the library, with several of our library staff and outside organizations, including the Kansas City Indian Center, Haskell Indian Nations University, Maria Rosa Menocal Lecture Series, Travois, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and David Oliver through the Francis Family Foundation. Stover shared a list of events activities related to the NEA Big Read event.

Siragusa noted that the Director’s Report (LBM 4544) was available for the Board to review. Coogan updated the Board on recent and upcoming in-person special events.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Secretary

Date