

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President  
Billie Howard Barnes  
Laura Dominik  
Jonathan Kemper  
Susan Kenney  
Denisha Snell  
India Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Claudia Oñate Greim  
Michelle Smirnova

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive  
Teresa Bolton, Director of Central Library Operations  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems  
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator  
and Project Specialist  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Community  
Engagement  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Community Engagement and  
Outreach  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive  
Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer  
Karen Weitzel, Chief People Officer  
\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and the October 3, 2023, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Second by Jonathan Kemper. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4664)**

(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.)

Discussing the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting, Perkins-McGuinness shared highlights and updates, including:

- Both the Library Streetcar and commemorative “One for the Books” beer from Vine Street Brewing launched successfully last week.
- Currently 75 people have RSVPed that they will attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> luncheon, including a strong showing from elected officials and representatives of various neighborhood associations and partners.
- Glenn North has been commissioned by the Library to write a poem in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup>, which he will deliver at the December 5<sup>th</sup> luncheon.
- The evening reception for the December 5<sup>th</sup> kickoff event with Tommi Laitio will include a performance by the Fantasticks and feature the commemorative 150<sup>th</sup> beverages created by Vine Street Brewing and J. Rieger & Co.
- A \$50,000 grant was received on November 20, bringing the fundraising total to \$115,000, which is 70% of the \$165,000 goal, with \$90,000 in requests that are still pending.

**Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion by Dominik to consider items 4.1 and 4.2 separately.**

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4665), Kemper inquired about the status of the MARC (Mid America Regional Council) database. Herron shared that MARC presented the database last week to the Executive Team and other key staff. The database is designed as a tool which includes various themes and indexes to help us evaluate the reach and usage of Library services. Jones clarified that the database is ongoing, will continue to update the data quarterly and work with MARC to adjust as needs and opportunities are identified. Kemper inquired when the database would be presented to the Board. Herron replied that staff still need time to review with MARC but would hope to share the database with the Board early in 2024.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Jonathan Kemper. 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 2023: Payroll (10/5/23 net cash \$363,209 plus taxes \$129,548) and (10/19/23 net cash \$354,191 plus taxes \$126,149) total amount of \$973,097; General Expense Payments including Checks (#12039-12290), in the amount of \$1,318,863. (LBM 4665)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for October 2023. (LBM 4666)**

Jones introduced Bolton and Olive Joyce and highlighted the new 3North Resource Center and the departments and services housed there.

The public facing space includes:

- Community Resources
- Tech Access
- 3North Gallery, currently featuring local community-based art from individuals with disabilities;
- two meeting rooms, one designated for use by Community Resources and the other available for smaller public or staff meetings; and
- a flexible grand area with various uses, including as a programming space.

Adjacent to the public space are offices housing staff in related teams, including:

- Community Reference
- Community Resources
- AmeriCorps Programs
- Senior Programs
- Tech Access
- Reference Services
- Phone Reference

Jones shared highlights for the December calendar of activities, classes, and events for the 3North Resource Center – designed to keep the space active and inclusive with an array of opportunities for learning, services, and connections. Bolton and Joyce shared some of the benefits of having additional space for extending programs and services, allowing joint programs between teams, and bringing staff together in the same space to share ideas and expertise more frequently.

Discussing the Director’s Report (LBM 4667), Herron highlighted the brief summary of the Heartland Book Festival in the report and reported that a debrief is being planned to discuss successes, lessons learned and the future of the Heartland Book Festival.

**Motion by Dominik to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously.**

The Board was in closed session from 5:05 p.m. until 5:57 p.m. No action was taken.

Howard Barnes arrived at 5:50 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date