

**Wyandotte County Library Board  
Minutes for Regular Meeting  
March 21, 2017**

**Call to Order**

The meeting, which was held at Kansas City Kansas Public Library South Branch, was called to order by Pat Pettey, Chairperson.

Members attending: Pat Pettey, Faye Thicklin, James “Bundy” Jenkins, Pat Garmon, Jim Jarsulic, Judy Anderson, and Jim Kendall.

Members absent: John “Tiny” McTaggart, Alice Banks, Alvin Sykes, Angela Lawson, and Chuck Stites.

Support advisors present: Carol Levers, Jack Granath, Sara Gill, Kathleen VonAchen, Reggie Lindsey , Ryan Carpenter, Karla Manning, and Dave Hanson.

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by James “Bundy” Jenkins to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Garmon. Motion passed unanimously.

**Introductions and Announcements**

Introductions were made by all members and support advisors present.

**Library Updates**

**Kansas City Kansas Public Library**

Carol Levers reported the following activities and events for the Kansas City Kansas Public Library:

- The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle Days event was held on January 21 and 22 at the F. L. Schlagle Library and Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake. Participants were able to take part in all the activities as well as enjoy the completion of the top floor and extended deck of the Schlagle Library building. The library had the help of eleven volunteers, who donated approximately 48 hours to make the event very successful. Next year’s Eagle Days will be held on January 20-21, 2018.
- Between 2500 and 3000 people attended the Jane Elliot event at Memorial Hall on February 17, 2017. People from as far away as St. Louis were in attendance to hear Jane Elliot speak on The Anatomy of Prejudice.
- ESL students from KCKCC visited the West Wyandotte Library to learn all the various services provided by the library that would be of benefit for ESL students.
- Statistics show that the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library had a good year in 2016 with a circulation growth of 13 percent. Growth in electronic content usage was up 63 percent, and use of the Mobile Library was up 51 percent. Computer use is down at the Main Branch and all the other branches in KCK. The drop is attributed to the prevalence of smartphones in today’s society. Things done previously on the computer can now be done on smartphone technology.

Patrons primarily using the library's computers and computer labs now are those who have fallen behind in the advancement of technology and are trying to catch up. Computer labs are very challenging because the students are at widely different skill levels.

### Bonner Springs City Library

Jack Granath reported the following activities and events at the Bonner Springs City Library:

- The Drum Safari Puppet Show, featuring Brandon Draper, was a big success with 54 participants attending.
- The Valentine's Day Party had 31 in attendance.
- Jazz on the Lake Biennial Fundraiser raised \$13,000, which was \$1,000 more than was raised during the event last year.
- The Historical Society Presentation with World War II Aviator Charlie Warren had 51 attending.
- A Legislative Coffee, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, had 26 people attend to discuss issues with Senator Steve Fitzgerald and Rep. Tom Burroughs.
- Paper shredding and electronics recycling events were successfully sponsored by the Bonner Springs City Library.
- Spring Break events at the library yielded the following attendance:
  - Movie – 58 attending
  - Kansas City Ballet Sleeping Beauty Workshop – 37 attending
  - Lego Club – 35 attending
  - St. Patrick's Day Party – 47 attending
  - Weekly Storytimes – 80 attending
- Statistics for 2016 shows the same kind of increase in electronic content usage as is shown at the other libraries. Bonner Springs shows a 23 percent increase in e-content usage, while computer usage is down by 4.5 percent. Programs and program attendance is going up significantly from year to year.
- John "Tiny" McTaggart previously requested information from the Bonner Springs City Library that would show patrons according to location. The 12,197 total patrons served by the Bonner Springs City Library have been divided according to the following locations:

|                    |   |               |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| Edwardsville       | - | 1,410 (11.6%) |
| Johnson County     | - | 1,300 (10.7%) |
| Kansas City Kansas | - | 1,250 (10.2%) |
| Leavenworth County | - | 872 (7.1%)    |

- Upcoming events for the Bonner Springs City Library will include the following:
  - Senior Fair with the Area Agency on Aging on Tuesday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
  - Raised Bed Gardening with the K-State Extension on Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m.
  - Books, Blocks, Bubbles and Barks – Annual Young Child Fair on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 6
  - Summer Reading Kickoff – "Build a Better World" on Saturday, June 3

### Turner Community Library

Sara Gill reported the following activities and events at the Turner Community Library:

- The Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration had from 250 to 300 people in attendance.
- Free tax help offered at the library on Thursdays starting at 10 a.m. filled up completely with patrons who needed tax preparation help.
- Preparation has begun for the summer reading program.

### **Budget**

Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director for the Unified Government, presented a proposed budget for the Wyandotte Public Libraries that included budget figures outlining two proposed budget options with the mill rate remaining the same for both options. The options proposed, and attached for this record, were as follows:

- A 2.5% revenue increase with a 5% expenditure increase; and
- A 5% revenue increase with a 5% expenditure increase.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer for the Unified Government, explained that Mayor Holland is working toward the achievement of a two-mill reduction in the Unified Government's 2018 budget with the goal of reducing the property tax burden for Wyandotte County taxpayers. She added that the County Appraiser is reporting a 5 to 10% increase in property valuations in the county, which will add to 2018 revenues. She explained the push to reduce the mill levy is as a result of the Mayor's reaction to STAR bond community surveys, which expressed the desire of taxpayers to (1) reduce the property tax mill rate; and (2) increase public safety. She said the Mayor's mission is to shift the government's total reliance on revenues from property tax funding to revenues that would increase reliance on sales tax funds, which is partially received from out-of-town retail customers.

Both the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library and the Bonner Springs City Library presented budget proposal requests asking for a proposed increase of 5% in the 2018 budget.

Jim Jarsulic asked if a portion of the Reserves fund balance could be used to start a capital fund for the erection of a new library facility. He said it was his understanding during last year's budget process that the Reserves balance was being increased specifically for that purpose. A discussion of the possibility ensued. Other Board members and Legal counsel agreed that the matter had been researched previously and that the Wyandotte County Library Board could not establish a capital fund according to the statutes governing the Board.

The Board will vote on the 2018 budget proposal at the next meeting that will be held on April 18 at the West Branch Library.

### **Adjournment**

James "Bundy" Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Faye Thicklin seconded the motion. Motion carried.