

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON

April 14, 2025

A meeting of the Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library was held on Monday April 14, 2025 at 4:00 PM via Zoom and in-person in the Board Room at the Main Library

The following Board members were present:

Mr. J. Auge	Ms. A. Silbernagel
Ms. S. Haden	Ms. D. Sonis
Ms. J. Hall	Dr. K. Sullivan
Mr. T. Hurney	Ms. C. Tawney
Mr. L. Moore	Mr. B. Thomas
Ms. S. Shumate	Dr. R. Wallace

KCPL staff members present: Ms. Erika Connelly, Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Ms. Marsha Alford, Ms. Jen Meddings, Mr. Steve Mills, Mr. Teddy Claypool, Ms. Susan Murphy, Ms. Julianne Yacovone, Ms. Terri McDougal, and Mr. Michael Polak.

Others in attendance: Mr. Christopher Winton; library counsel.

Mr. Thomas presided over the meeting and called it to order at 4:01 p.m. The director served as Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on March 10, 2025, as distributed.

Director's Report

Ms. Connelly reported that up-to-date financial reports covering the first quarter of the 2025 calendar year will be presented at the May board meeting. She then invited Human Resources Manager Ms. Marsha Alford to review KCPL's annual Staff Development Day.

New Main hosted this year's event on Wednesday, April 9th. Post-event surveys indicated that 94 percent of staff feedback was positive. Ms. Alford thanked KCPL's Trainer, Ms. Harvest Rich, for her hard work in helping facilitate the event. Ms. Rich along with staff members: Ms. Gabby Cochrane, Ms. Amanda Gibson, and Ms. Julianne Yacovone, each led breakout sessions. Legal Aid of West Virginia also provided an overview of services for staff.

The 2025 Outstanding Service Award went to Cataloger, Lori Falin. Ms. Falin began working in her present role in the Technical Services department in 1997. In a year full of personnel changes, Ms. Falin helped bring stability and leadership to the department.

Library administration is presently monitoring patron feedback regarding the removal of the CD/Music collection. The future of the collection is presently in flux. Michael Lipton, the founder/director of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame, reached out to Ms. Connelly to discuss the potential of the Music Hall hosting the removed collection. They plan to continue discussing potential plans for this possibility.

Ms. Connelly offers to meet with any patron who would like to discuss the collection decision. Mr. Thomas stated that “this is a volunteer board” and recommended Board members respond to all outreach regarding this by directing them to Ms. Connelly.

Action Items

1. Library Foundation of Kanawha County Board Member Term Updates

Mr. Thomas had two resolutions to read into the record on behalf of the Library Foundation Board. The Foundation Board spent much of the last year recruiting to replenish its ranks. Current President Mr. Bryan Cokeley presented six new members for Board approval. Mr. Thomas quickly reviewed the resumes of each of the candidates. The following resolution was APPROVED unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the following new members be approved as Directors on the Library Foundation of Kanawha County Board: Ms. Maureen Conley, Ms. Sharon Seidler, Mr. James Becker, Mr. Staunton Gorrell, Mr. Max Gottlieb, and Mr. Bob Welty.

The second resolution sets up new term lengths for all Foundation Board members. Foundation Board members may serve up to two six-year terms. A partial term does not count towards the term limit. After serving their two six-year terms, members will come off the Foundation Board for at least one full fiscal year, and then they may rejoin if they would like to continue to serve. The following terms divide the present Foundation Board into three groups and will prevent the entire Board from expiring in the same year.

After a brief discussion about the differences in the Board of Directors’ bylaws and the Foundation’s regarding eligibility based upon county of residence, the following resolution went into the record and was APPROVED unanimously:

RESOLVED, that effective July 1, 2025, the Board of Directors on the Library Foundation of Kanawha County ADOPT the following terms –

Mr. Bill Aubel – 6 years

Dr. D. Anne Cavalier – 4 years

Dr. Guus Lobach – 2 years

Ms. Tara Markham – 6 years

Ms. Michelle Marlowe – 4 years

Mr. Dave Pray – 2 years

Ms. Fran Rollins – 6 years

Ms. Michelle Storage – 4 years

Ms. Mary Catherine Tuckwiller – 2 years

Ms. Eydie Nash-Gaiser – 6 years

Ms. Melissa Preston – 4 years
Mr. Bob Welty -- 2 years
Mr. Staunton Gorrell – 6 years
Mr. James Becker – 4 years
Mr. Max Gottlieb – 2 years
Ms. Sharon Seidler – 6 years
Ms. Maureen Conley – 4 years
Mr. Bryan Cokeley – 2 years.

Reports of Committees

1. Special Eastern Kanawha County

Ms. Connelly had her first meeting with Silling/HBM and reviewed the first steps for the planning process of the new Eastern Kanawha regional branch library. The group plans to facilitate summer outreach sessions in the community and will be meeting regularly.

Old Business

Ms. Connelly updated the board on developments regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). On March 14, President Trump signed Executive Order 14238 which directs that the IMLS and six other agencies “be eliminated at the maximum extent of the law.”

Ms. Connelly overviewed the possible state and federal effects of the funding. Currently, nothing is clear. Worst case scenarios could lead to many smaller West Virginia libraries without city or county funding streams to eliminate services.

An updated version of the KCPL’s “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” policy will be reviewed by special committee and presented in the May board meeting. Additionally, Ms. Connelly will host a joint session of the Financial Affairs and Personnel Committee in April to finalize the fiscal year budget for 25-26.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting. Motion was seconded, and the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:06 P.M.

President

Secretary