The Annual Meeting of the Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library was held on Friday, July 1, 2022, at 9:00 AM via Zoom and in-person in the board room at New Main.

The following Board Members were present:

- Dr. M. Blackwell
- Ms. B. King
- Mr. C. Erlewine
- Ms. J. Pauer
- Ms. A. Gould
- Ms. A. Silbenagel
- Ms. S. Haden
- Dr. K. Sullivan
- Mr. T. Hurney
- Mr. B. Thomas
- Ms. M. Jaensson

KCPL staff members present were Ms. Erika Connelly, Ms. Marsha Alford, Ms. Adele Thumm, Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Mr. Stan Howell, and Mr. Michael Polak.

Others in attendance were Josh Pray, Owner’s Representative Pray Works, and Mr. Christopher Winton, library counsel.

Ms. Jaenssson presided and reported that a quorum was present. The Director served as Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

**Approval of Bills**

*General and Book Bills* -- In accordance with Bylaws and on a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the payment of General Bills in the amount of $195,145.22 and the Book Bills in the amount of $260,865.18 were approved and transmitted for payment by the Library Director to the Board of Education of the County of Kanawha.

*Special Fund* -- The Library Director submitted bills to be paid from the Special Fund in the amount of $78.14, duly certified and approved in accordance with the Bylaws, and on a motion duly made, seconded, and ADOPTED, the Board approved the payment of the bills set for on the list.

**Director’s Report**

Before she began her report, Ms. Connelly called the board’s attention to the agenda for a Special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, July 5th included in their packets. Ms. Connelly will be attending the meeting as the Board will vote on accepting the language for the Library’s Levy that will go on the ballot in November.

Ms. Connelly then showed new pictures of the installed Clendenin Kiosk. The Kanopy is waiting for a data hookup and will be ready for its debut by mid-month. The plan is to put a butterfly garden with native plants adjacent to the facility. Library materials will go into the machine via openings on the side
and the bottom. Staff will get an electronic report each day with information about what’s checked out, what needs to be taken and put in transit, and what needs to be re-stocked. The Clendenin staff will check the machine regularly.

Ms. Jaensson suggested that the Clendenin Branch have extra library cards delivered as she feels the demand for new cards will increase with the installation of the machine.

Ms. Connelly fielded a few questions about the use of New Main. The library is currently averaging about 3,000 people a week, Mondays and weekends are currently getting the highest traffic. She noted a pleasant surprise is the demand for the library’s new meeting rooms. Since the grand opening on May 9, there have been 253 bookings of the room. The team has had a bit of a challenge handling this demand and adjusting on the fly to the technology issues.

Tours of the space continue to be very popular. Recently, a group of 80 teenage students in West Virginia State’s Outward Bound summer program went through the space. The IDEA Lab was their favorite space.

Ms. Silbernagel asked for an update on the tool lending library. Mrs. Connelly explained that the collection is popular. They are currently working with the library’s insurance on missing items and identifying different things (the sharper objects in the collection) that make the insurance a little uncomfortable. Ms. Connelly clarified that the library is fully covered by its insurance. The library plans to incorporate future training programs on the best use of different items in the tool collection for both patrons and staff.

Reports of Committees

1. Membership

Ms. Haden explained that Board President, Monika Jaensson, is coming off the Board of Directors and that this will be her final meeting. Ms. Haden, then, read the following resolution into the record.

WHEREAS, Ms. Monika Jaensson’s tenure with the Kanawha County Public Library Board of Directors ends July 1, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jaensson has been a joyful and dedicated member of the Board of Directors since September 2012, actively serving on several Committees; and has served as Board President since July 1, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, during her tenure Ms. Jaensson has offered her lifelong love of reading and passion for the power of information and books of all genres to patrons of all ages; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jaennson has been a fervent champion of library service to help raise donations and funds for the Reimagine Your Library campaign, totaling $32 million; establishing the Main Library as the City’s premier community space; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jaensson has donated much of her time to weekly project management meetings, morning huddles, and committee meetings that propelled the Reimagine Your Library project; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jaensson has shared her many years of practical educational insight in reforming KCPL vision, programs and policies; she has demonstrated the ability to remain graceful under pressure (even
when answering questions from reporters), and her willingness to make connections beyond the board room; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jaensson’s fingerprints extend to the many adult and youth literacy programs throughout the Library System and the WV Book Festival, creating collaborative, inclusive, and innovative spaces for cultural, educational, and information services; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors acknowledges Monika Jaensson “will be greatly missed” as she has come to the end of her tenure with the Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board wishes to express its heartfelt and warmest appreciation to Ms. Jaensson for her faithful service and dedication to the Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be given to our esteemed colleague, Monika Jaensson. Approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on the 1st day of July 2022.

2. Building

Mr. Thomas explained that he didn’t have an action item to present from the committee but explained the following as a “coming attraction.” Dave Pray and PrayWorks have been very diligent in Project Accounting, for which the committee is very grateful. As the final touches are put on the new main project, they are anticipating that the project cost will go slightly over the contingency balance. Mr. Thomas clarified that the high-end estimation is about 100 to 200,000 dollars over the 32 Million budgeted for the entire project. He stated that the cash is there, and the question is simply “how will the library account for it?” Thomas wants this to be a one-time presentation to the board, and as soon as the reports are ready, he will present this adjustment.

New Business

1. The Membership Committee was appointed to serve as the Nominating Committee, and the Committee chair, Ms. Stephanie Haden made a recommendation to the Board that the officers for the upcoming fiscal year be as follows:

Board President: Mr. Ben Thomas
1st Board Vice President: Ms. Stephanie Haden
2nd Board Vice President: Ms. Betty King
Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Erika Connelly.

There was no discussion, and the motion was ADOPTED to RATIFIED at the next Board Meeting.

2. Mr. Thomas invited discussion as to when the Board should meet next. There was a scheduled meeting on Monday, July 11th at 4:00 PM, while there will be no committee reports, there are a few items that need the board’s attention. The Membership Committee has two new candidates to present to the Board and a retirement resolution will need to be approved.
A motion was made to continue this meeting on Monday, July 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM. The motion was seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion to continue this meeting later in the month was ADOPTED.

There being no further discussion of business, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting. Motion was seconded, and the meeting ADJOURNED at 9:30 AM.