

MINUTES

Arkansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting – September 9, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Monday, September 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawna Allison, President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Tweedy, City Commissioner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitch Reichle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Boyle, Treasurer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lloyd Colston, Vice-President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Latresha Swopes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Mitton, Secretary | |

STAFF PRESENT: Mendy Pfannenstiel, Library Director

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Allison called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Motion by Colston to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Second by Tweedy. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Colston to approve the current financials. Second by Mitton. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Reichle to hire an attorney for an opinion on library municipal funding. Second by Colston. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Swopes to approve the creation of an Ark City History Room in the former storage room upstairs. Second by Mitton. Approved unanimously.

Pfannenstiel presented the current Director's report.

Motion by Colston to adjourn the meeting. Second by Tweedy. Approved unanimously. With there being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:27 p.m.

Library Director's Report

Personnel/Professional Development:

- Breanna Dittert is our Cowley Connect Community Coordinator. She started last month, and this AmeriCorps (American Connection Corps) position is in collaboration with Winfield Public Library and was funded in part by Legacy Foundation. Her focus will be on county resource sharing and digital access and skills assistance. She is working heavily with various community organizations, especially RISE Cowley, and as part of a larger effort to address the lack of digital equity in our area.

Facilities & Grounds:

- The elevator work is complete. We just need to connect to the phone line.

Budget/Finance:

- Preliminary discussions with City representatives have addressed our continued lack of funding as requested by the Library Board. So far it looks as though the City would be able to help address some funding gaps next year (especially if our ballot measure passes). Additionally, there might be an avenue to address funding gaps in the first half of 2026 until our first tax distributions from the new district are received.

Collection/Circulation:

- Nothing new to report.

Special Projects / Partnerships / Grants:

- We are partnering with Winfield Public Library and other service organizations for the upcoming DOCK grant which addresses digital literacy and digital skill sets for Kansans. A larger coalition as well as letters of support from other organizations would give us the best chance at successfully being chosen as a recipient. So far discussions are based on similar work to what Breanna is currently doing.

Technology:

- Nothing new to report.

Public Relations/Advocacy:

- Facebook: 2,439 Followers (85% women, 15% men)
- September: Website Views: 1,446; Wi-Fi Connections: 226
- Marketing: Facebook posts & boosts; CourierTraveler ads & quarterly; Monthly StoryWalk; Weekly Little Free Libraries; Arkalalah Ad; HS Yearbook Ad
- Partnerships/Collabs/Networking: RISE Cowley, Soroptimists; Early Literacy Partnerships, Cowley House of Hope, USD 470; Cowley ACTS; Advancing Cowley Digital Opportunities, Chamber & VISIT Ark City
- Strategic Planning: Temporarily on hold until after election.

SCKLS / State Library / Legislative / Legal / Other Coops:

- SCKLS has shared information about Ark City and Udall's proposed districts on their website.
- The attorney opinion concerning our library funding issue has been shared with the City Manager.

Gifts, Memorials, and Other:

- Nothing new to report.

Submitted by:

Mendy Pfannenstiel, Director