

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
December 11, 2019

Members present: Joan Greco-Cohen, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Edmund Acosta, Aleta Porter Klein, Helen Nelling

Members absent: LaTrice Johnson, Rubina Stewart-McCadney

City Council Liaison: Tim Cusick

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Christa Van Herreweghe, Cindy Deichmann

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm by Joan Greco-Cohen, President, following roll call.

Minutes – The minutes from the November 13, 2019 meeting were approved at 5:22 pm.

Correspondence –

1. Annual donations were received from Jane Miller (\$200) and Sharon & Warren Danziger (\$1500).
2. Innovations in Textiles sent a thank you and gift card for grant-funded use of our meeting room.
3. Patrick received a phone call complaining about #1 McKnight Place residents not having to pay the library tax.

Council Liaison Report – The Loop Trolley is shutting down on December 29; Bi-State is investigating whether to take over running it. The storm-water task force submitted their report to Council on December 9; there will be a study session in January. The I-170 development is moving along slowly. Paulette Carr is not running for re-election; deadline to get on the April ballot is January 21. So far Aleta Porter Klein and Jerrold Tiers have announced that they are running for her seat; Jeff Hales and Bwayne Smotherson are running for re-election. Other items on the April ballot are some school board seats and possibly a proposition from the Metropolitan Sewer District.

Librarian's Report – Our ILS (Polaris) is being bought by another company; we do not yet know the ramifications. Our fire alarm is having issues and will be replaced with our new construction. Circulation numbers were down, without an obvious reason. The consent agenda was approved at 5:38 pm.

Discussion Items

- Building renovations: Historic Preservation Commission approved dark-tinted windows with “appropriate” mullions, which will probably be significantly more expensive than planned; will go back to HPC if too expensive. Per Bond, schedule now is to get bids in May/June and begin construction in July. Will work with a real estate agent to find space for use during construction period. A public meeting is scheduled for Dec 16 at 6 pm.
- Library data for the annual Missouri Public Library Survey has been submitted.
- The Personnel & Policies committee recommended becoming a mostly fine-free library, with a soft roll-out on January 1, 2020, per their discussion at the December 9, 2019 committee meeting.
- An ad-hoc committee was formed to discuss fundraising and patron appreciation events. Committee members are Edmund Acosta, Helen Nelling, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Aleta Porter Klein, and Joan Greco-Cohen.

Action Items

- Closed session was not required. The Board voted to accept the Joint Stipulation of Facts and the draft consent order pertaining to the ethics complaint against the Library made to the Missouri Ethics Commission. Motion made by Jerrold Lander, seconded by Helen Nelling; passed at 6:17 pm. President Joan Greco-Cohen signed the Joint Stipulation of Facts.
- Full-time employment will be offered to two senior part-time staffers, Amber Nordmann and Loretta Lipsey, per the recommendation of the Personnel & Policy committee. Motion made by Aren Ginsberg, seconded by Aleta Porter Klein; passed at 6:20 pm.
- The Library's Rules of Service were amended to remove most fines effective January 1, 2020, per the recommendation of the Personnel & Policy committee. Motion made by Jerrold Lander, seconded by Edmund Acosta; passed at 6:23 pm.
- Payment of the following invoices was approved. Motion made by Aren Ginsberg, seconded by Helen Nelling; passed at 6:25 pm.
 - Baker & Taylor: \$9,798.55

- Bond Architects: \$7,268.76
- CDW-G: \$7,068.27
- Municipal Library Consortium: \$4,361.48

President's Report – Helen will help Joan with the procedure for Patrick's review—developing countable goals, etc.—then Joan will take it back to the Personnel & Policy committee.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – last met on December 11, 2019; discussed fine-free proposal, upcoming budget

Building & Grounds – last met on November 13, 2019

Long-Range Planning – last met on December 4, 2019; don't need to work on strategic plan until construction is well underway; will develop working document of wishlists and their progress

Personnel & Policy – last met on December 9, 2019; policy changes and staff promotions were approved for presentation to the full board

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.