

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
December 9, 2020

Members present: Joan Greco-Cohen, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Edmund Acosta, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes

Members absent: Michael Hart, LaTrice Johnson

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

Guest: Bill O'Bright

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Kathleen Gallagher, Cindy Deichmann

The meeting was held online due to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic. Board members and staff participated via Zoom, and the meeting was livestreamed for the public via the Library's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by Joan Greco-Cohen, President, following roll call.

Minutes – The minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting were approved as amended at 5:20 pm.

Correspondence – Today the Library received two unhappy calls from patrons about services the Library cannot provide right now, and one very complimentary email from a patron. The Post-Dispatch printed a letter about the importance of libraries. The Friends of the Library have received a strong response to their annual mailing.

Council Liaison Report – Retail shops in the Loop are still open for holiday shopping and food ordering. There has been an uptick in crimes of opportunity, especially thefts from cars, sheds, etc; the police have begun a campaign to get citizens to check that cars are locked at 9 pm each night. The leaf collection schedule has caused some confusion; Central area is finished, West will be finished this week, East the week of December 14-18. Mr. Clay will get more information about the Tru Hotel project for the next meeting. The purchase of body cameras for University City police has been approved; he will check for the date that they will be deployed.

Librarian's Report – The consent agenda was approved at 6:01 pm; motion made by Edmund Acosta, seconded by Jerrold Lander.

Discussion Items – Practicum student Bill O'Bright gave a presentation on placemaking and how it could be implemented at the Library.

Installation of the high-density storage shelving in the basement will begin the last week of December.

Bond Architects is concerned that replacing the doors will require permission from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Action Items – Jerrold Lander moved that the Library extend the benefits of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA) to Library employees until January 31, 2021, seconded by Helen Nelling. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:12 pm.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – will meet in late January or February, after tax revenue has been received

Building & Grounds – no meeting scheduled

Long-Range Planning – will delay meeting until at least mid-January, after next Board meeting

Personnel & Policy – no meeting scheduled

New Business – The Board commended Mr. Wall and the Library staff for doing a great job.

Cindy Zirwes was appointed to the Building & Grounds and Long-Range Planning committees.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.