

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
December 8, 2021

Members present: Helen Nelling, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes, Aren Ginsberg, Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Kathleen Simpson.

Members absent:

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

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 5:16 pm by Helen Nelling, President, following roll call; Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes were present. LaTrice Johnson joined the meeting at 5:34 pm.

Minutes – Joan Greco-Cohen made a motion that the minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting be approved, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:16 pm.

Correspondence – The Library has received several donations.

Council Liaison Report – On December 13, 2021, Council will be voting on whether to add a sales tax increase to fund public safety to the April 2022 ballot; monies raised by the tax would be used to shore up the City's Uniform Pension Fund, and possibly purchase a third ambulance. Dirt from the north side of the project at Olive & I-170 will be used to grade the south side of the project. Edmund Acosta asked Mr. Clay what he wanted to learn from the City's Visioning Committee; Mr. Clay said he wants to learn what the citizens want.

Public Comment – No public comments were received.

Librarian's Report – Jerrold Lander made a motion that the consent agenda be approved, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:34 pm.

Discussion Items

Board meeting advice from MPLD attorney. Adam Sommer, attorney for the Missouri Public Library Directors group, advised that, in light of increasing efforts to remove books from schools and public libraries, library boards should list their rules for public comment on each meeting's agenda and consistently enforce those rules. Patrick Wall borrowed the wording used on the City of University City's meeting agenda to clarify procedure.

Building renovation schedule. Final installation is delayed until March 2022 for two windows; a new manufacturer for the missing piece is being sought. Sliding doors should be installed by Christmas. Meetings with Bond Architects over the next week will provide other schedule updates.

Disposition of furniture. Library furniture that will not be reused following the renovation may be offered to the public for bids; Patrick Wall will investigate the City's policy, and whether the items must officially be made surplus by the Board.

Action Items

Reciprocal agreement with Jefferson County Library and Scenic Regional Library systems. Joan Greco-Cohen made a motion that the reciprocal lending agreement with Jefferson County Library and Scenic Regional Library be approved, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:56 pm.

Invoices from Bond Architects. Aren Ginsberg made a motion that the Bond Architects invoice in the amount of \$100,282.59 be approved for payment, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:58 pm.

Farmer Environmental Proposal. Jerrold Lander made a motion that the proposal by Farmer Environmental to oversee abatement services for demolition be accepted, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:02 pm.

President's Report – Helen Nelling thanked Library staff for managing three locations so well She reported on her trip to the Sacramento Public Library and commented on their collections of board games and memory care kits. She recommended two books: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, and *The Library: A Fragile History* by Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen.

Committee Reports— The Budget & Finance and Building & Grounds committees will meet before the regularly scheduled Board meetings for at least the next few months.

Budget & Finance – Met before today's meeting. Bond Architects are not charging us hourly but by percentage of work completed. Board members should review pp. 21-23 of the packet before next month's meeting for information on Stifel.

Building & Grounds – Met before today's meeting. The Library is storing a lot of items in 630 Trinity. Leases for 6900 Delmar and 6901 Washington will need to be extended past Spring 2022 due to slippage of the renovation schedule.

Long-Range Planning – Will arrange a meeting in the next few weeks.

Personnel & Policy – Will meet on December 29, 2021, to review three policies.

New Business – Helen Nelling will provide pizza and Cindy Zirwes will provide baked items for Library staff in the new few weeks.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, Joan Greco-Cohen moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.