

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for  
**September 27, 2023**

Members present: Cindy Zirwes, Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Kim Deitzler, Mark Barnes, Joan Greco-Cohen, Kathleen Simpson.

Members absent: Helen Nelling

City Council Liaison: not present

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Kerry Bruce, Cindy Deichmann

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The meeting was held in hybrid format. Some board members and staff participated via Zoom, and the meeting was recorded; it is available for viewing on the Library's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

A public hearing on the 2023 Library tax rate was opened at 5:15 pm. Notice of the hearing was published on September 15, 2023 in the *St. Louis Countian* newspaper. No member of the public spoke, and no public comments were received. The hearing was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm by Cindy Zirwes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Aren Ginsberg made a motion that the minutes from the special meeting on September 13, 2023 be approved, seconded by Mark Barnes. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:20 pm.

Correspondence – Debra Ann House made a donation to the library; the state librarian sent a thank you for planning and participating in the visit from the LSTA project manager in August; and U City in Bloom sent an email regarding the sinkhole on our grounds.

Council Liaison Report – None.

President's Report – Cindy Zirwes discussed the City comprehensive plan, which talks about how to be a better board member among many other topics. Pages 94, 132 and 133 are particularly applicable to the Library Board. She asked board members to review it before the October 11, 2023 meeting so that the board can decide whether to support the plan when it goes to City Council.

Librarian's Report – There is concern about SB190, which became state law on August 28 and allows counties to freeze property tax payment for persons 62 and older; if St. Louis County passes the freeze, tax revenue to the Library could be significantly affected.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – The committee met on September 27 before the full Board meeting and discussed setting the 2023 tax rates, interest payment to BOKF for the renovation loan, and the adjusted invoice from MBI.

Building & Grounds – The committee met on September 27 before the full Board meeting and discussed several building issues. A sinkhole on the NE side of the building towards the end of the parking lot will require a plumber to come out for repairs.

Long-Range Planning – No report.

Personnel & Policy – No report.

Action Items

*Adoption of Resolution 2023-02, regarding the setting of tax rates:* A resolution ordering the levy and fixing the rate of property taxes to be collected in the University City Public Library district for the year 2023 to provide for general revenue was passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:37 pm. The tax rates on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation are:

- Residential property: thirty three and one tenths cents (.3310)
- Commercial property: thirty four and five tenths cents (.3450)
- Personal property: forty cents (.4000)

Jerrold Lander moved that the resolution be approved with correction of a typo, seconded by Aren Ginsberg.

- Mark Barnes voted Aye.
- Kim Deitzler voted Aye.
- Aren Ginsberg voted Aye.
- Joan Greco-Cohen voted Aye.
- Jerrold Lander voted Aye.
- Kathleen Simpson voted Aye.
- Cindy Zirwes voted Aye.

*Approval of debt service interest payment to BOKF.* Interest on the Library's Certificates of Participation, due on October 11, 2023, is \$92,657.59. Aren Ginsberg made a motion to approve payment to BOKF of \$92,657.59, seconded by Mark Barnes. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:38 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

*Approval of payment of revised invoice from Modern Business Interiors.* The invoice covers the furniture order, reupholstery, storage and delivery, and has been revised to reflect the correct number of furniture pieces. Aren Ginsberg made a motion to approve payment to MBI of \$96,336.86, seconded by Mark Barnes. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:41 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

Old Business – Board members are encouraged to participate in the Library's quiet read-in on Monday, October 2, for the beginning of Banned Books Week. No Board members have yet received logins from United for Libraries for trustee training. A short trustee training video will be shown at the October 11, 2023 meeting.

New Business – None.

Public comment – None.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.