

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
October 11, 2023

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

Members absent: Kathleen Simpson.

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

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

The meeting was held in hybrid format. Some board members and staff participated via Zoom, and the meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 pm by Cindy Zirwes, President, followed by roll call. Jerrold Lander joined the meeting at 5:36 pm.

Minutes – Aren Ginsberg made a motion that the minutes from the meeting on September 27, 2023 be approved, seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed at 5:18 pm.

Correspondence – A copy of a letter to the Post-Dispatch encouraging people to come see the quilt show at UCPL was received. Two different people commented on the renovations, one saying they are “insane” and the other “beautiful.” A donation was received in memory of Patricia Adams.

Council Liaison Report – Current cost estimates for the new police station are substantially higher than budgeted for, so the City is looking to trim plans; it might be easier to build new, but the City is required to maintain the historic buildings. More new businesses have opened at Market at Olive, but the developer is still looking for businesses to replace Dierbergs and Target.

President’s Report – Cindy Zirwes focused on gratitude, thanking 1) board members for coming to the library on October 2 for the Banned Books Week read-in; 2) the Missouri Association of School Librarians, which has been recognized as the chapter of the year by the American Library Association; 3) Aren Ginsberg for donating anti-collision stickers for the library’s glass doors; and 4) library staff for their hard work, especially Patrick Wall and Kerry Bruce.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – October 11 meeting was canceled.

Building & Grounds – Thanked staff members for installing the Storywalk in Heman Park; new doors for the YS restrooms are the wrong size due to a manufacturer error, will be replaced; adding a door swipe on the auditorium is being discussed with Raineri; HVAC bad fan motors are being replaced (under contract); cleaning/polishing the main staircase is being scheduled.

Long-Range Planning – Will schedule a meeting soon.

Personnel & Policy – Hope to meet by the end of October.

Librarian’s Report – Two former employees have rejoined the staff. The public catalog will look quite different when the library migrates to Evergreen in 2024; patrons searching for items will see local holdings first, then state-wide holdings if there are no local copies. Midwest Pano will record a virtual tour of the library that will also have links, e.g. a tour of a meeting room could link to the room booking page. Two new telescopes are on order, and St. Louis Astronomical Society will fix a broken one that the library already owns. The library participated in the Homecoming Parade with the book bike.

Aren Ginsberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Joan Greco-Cohen. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:52 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

Discussion Items – Aren Ginsberg will provide white noise machines to mitigate the loudness of the new hand dryers in the public restrooms. Board members watched and discussed a short video, “What it means to be a trustee,” provided by United for Libraries. Possibly opening a satellite library will be considered by the long-range planning committee.

Action Items

Old Business – None.

New Business – Audiobooks and ebooks that the library does not own can be requested for purchase through the Libby app.

Public comment – None.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.