

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
September 25, 2024

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

Members absent:

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; it is available for viewing on the Library's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

A public hearing on the 2024 Library tax rate was opened at 5:17 pm. Notice of the hearing was published on September 9, 2024 in the St. Louis Countian newspaper. No member of the public spoke, and no public comments were received. The hearing was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

The board meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Cindy Zirwes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Aren Ginsberg made a motion that the minutes from the meeting on June 12, 2024 be approved, seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed at 5:36 p.m.

Correspondence – The Library has received numerous donations in memory of Bruce Collins, who was Library Director from 1970 to 1993, as well as several other donations over the summer. A few patrons were banned.

Council Liaison Report – Council met on September 23, 2024. MSD is working on Project Clear, diverting waste water from the River Des Peres; the Army Corps of Engineers is also working in Pagedale. Clearing tunnels seems to have helped mitigate flooding this year. Council has not seen actual recent numbers from Markets at Olive but business is still good. The Local on Delmar apartment project in the old Commerce Bank building in the Loop is beginning construction soon. Council is concerned about empty retail locations in the Loop.

Librarian's Report – Patrick Wall thanked Trustee Kathleen Simpson for her service; she is moving and will be leaving the Board. Helen Nelling made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Jerrold Lander. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 5:44 pm.

President's Report – Cindy Zirwes also thanked Kathleen Simpson for her service as a Trustee. Cindy welcomed back the Board after the summer break. She received many positive comments from the public about the grand re-opening in June. She discussed a talk by Nathan Chappell that she attended, aimed at nonprofits, regarding the intersection of philanthropy and AI/technology in general.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Met before the full Board meeting. Donations included money from the Memorial Day Run. Committee recommended approving tax rates, budget amendments, and interest payment to BOKF.

Building & Grounds – Met before the full Board meeting. Lighting people are replacing some internal lights that burned out; the garden looks amazing; Midwest Pano will be providing a virtual tour setup soon; the elevator will be shut down in January 2025 for more repairs; the issue with rain causing the outer doors to open has been fixed; the Youth Services bathtubs should be returning to the department in October 2024.

Long-Range Planning – Met September 24. Still working through the Missouri Library Standards, focusing on signage and acquiring a Library of Things (e.g., cake pans, durable medical equipment).

Personnel & Policy – Met September 24. Discussed a specific remote work request; will need to develop a general policy on the topic. Board bylaws revision vote to be tabled until October 9, 2024 meeting. Library will sell swag, starting with water bottles; profits from swag will go toward improvements for staff areas.

Discussion Items – None.

Action Items

Adoption of Resolution 2024-01, 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 2024 to provide for general

revenue was passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:55 pm. The tax rates on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation are:

- Residential property: thirty three and two tenths cents (.3320)
- Commercial property: thirty four and five tenths cents (.3450)
- Personal property: forty cents (.4000)

Helen Nelling moved that the resolution be approved, seconded by Aren Ginsberg.

- Mark Barnes voted Aye.
- Kim Deitzler voted Aye.
- Aren Ginsberg voted Aye.
- Joan Greco-Cohen voted Aye.
- Dennis Hoppe voted Aye.
- Jerrold Lander voted Aye.
- Helen Nelling 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 10, 2024, is \$88,548.11. Jerrold Lander made a motion to approve payment to BOKF of \$88,548.11, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:56 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Dennis Hoppe, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None.

Approval of budget amendments for FY 2023-2024. Jerrold Lander made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented for fiscal year 2023-2024, seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:56 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Dennis Hoppe, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None.

Policy—revision of Library Board bylaws. This action item is tabled until the October 9, 2024 board meeting so that all Trustees can review it.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Kim Deitzler reported that more school kids would be coming to the library on field trips this year, and the kids are very excited about it.

Public comment – None.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.