

**Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees of the University City Public Library for
January 14, 2026**

Members present: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, and Cindy Zirwes.

Members absent: Trish Winchell

City Council Liaison absent: Stacy Clay

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Kerry Bruce, Tracey Howe-Koch

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Helen Nelling made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. It was seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:17pm.

Correspondence - Two correspondences were shared. Several Holiday treats were delivered in December and enjoyed by the staff.

Council Liaison – Patrick Wall noted that Councilman Fuller is ready to make a new Board Member appointment.

President's Report – The internal UCity Journal recognized several library staff for their years of service. It was suggested that the Library do something similar.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – There was discussion of the recent library survey. It was determined that focus groups will be conducted to capture a bigger representation of patrons. They are weighing the possibility of hiring a social worker in tandem with other MLC libraries. Friends of UCity Public Library may be able to provide some funding support.

Personnel and Policy – A new Office Manager and part-time Reference Assistant have been hired. They are revising by-laws so that only committee members can vote at committee meetings. They are drafting a policy to increase tuition reimbursements and to extend them to part-time employees. Higher reimbursements for those seeking a Masters in Library Science degree will be maintained.

Building and Grounds – Windows have remained water-tight, shelving endcaps have been repaired, and Jan-Pro has been contracted to clean the bathrooms. A RFQ will be published in the St. Louis American for bathroom doors.

Budget – The financial statements were reviewed. There is only one book vendor now, but the library has negotiated good terms with them. Spire is still not billing correctly. The Treasury Bond was renewed, but does have a slightly lower interest rate. An updated income statement that included a newly received grant check was distributed. The auditors had no recommendations.

Librarian's Report

The check for the Tech mini grant and Spotlight grant arrived today. ICE was been seen in the area. Staff are instructed to alert Patrick or Kerry if they come to the library. They will contact the Attorney. Police will be called if patrons are disturbed. The Wadsworth Museum in Hartford, CT will be borrowing some of the library's pottery. They will insure the pieces for travel and display. Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes, Kim Deitzler (potentially), Patrick Wall, and Kerry Bruce will participate at the MLA Advocacy Day in Jefferson City on February 3, 2026. Kim Deitzler noted that in the Librarian's Report, it should be "Chiefs" not "Rams" moving to Kansas City. The new door counter appears to be more accurate and not under-counting as the previous counter was. Staff will double-check.

Helen Nelling made a motion to accept the consent agenda and it was seconded by Jerrold Lander. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:45pm.

Action Items - none

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comments – none

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:15pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46pm.