

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
February 10, 2021

Members present: Joan Greco-Cohen, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Edmund Acosta, Michael Hart, LaTrice Johnson, Cindy Zirwes

Members absent: Helen Nelling

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Kathleen Gallagher, Cindy Deichmann

The meeting was held online due 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 5:15 pm by Joan Greco-Cohen, President, following roll call.

Minutes – The minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting were approved at 5:17 pm; motion made by Aren Ginsberg, seconded by Jerrold Lander.

Correspondence – Most patron comments are positive, although there have been some complaints that the Library is not providing more services, including opening the building. The City is looking to reopen facilities when the positivity rate is below 5%; the Library will use a similar milestone, after talking to the County Department of Health and other area libraries. If things continue to improve, probably the Library will reopen in March.

Council Liaison Report – Last week's positivity rate data for the City was 10%, down from 22%. Centennial Commons holds many programs for seniors and other at-risk communities; it may possibly have a limited opening in March. The City would like to hold a mass vaccination event. On February 8, 2021, Council passed a trap-neuter-release ordinance. Council held a public hearing for the Market at Olive project; rezoning via ordinance takes 2 meetings; should be ready to go when the developer is ready, possibly in a few weeks. Council held a study session on capital projects (police station and others) that will require bonding; possibly it will be on the ballot in August. The proposed apartment complex on Delmar in the old Commerce Bank building is being studied—City ordinance allows no more than 3 unrelated people to live together, but the apartments are designed with 4 bedrooms plus a common area, possibly to be rented by room.

Librarian's Report – The consent agenda was approved at 5:37 pm; motion made by Dorothy Davis, seconded by Aren Ginsberg.

Discussion Items – The City has begun emptying the old library building so that the Library can use it; the boiler still needs to be repaired. The Library's lawyers have provided an addendum to the contract with Bond Architects, clarifying payments; the next step is to get Bond's agreement to the addendum. Construction documents are expected in April.

Action Items

- Bond Architects contract for exterior work and door replacement – Aren Ginsberg moved to approve the proposed contract, amended to included addendum from lawyers; seconded by Jerrold Lander. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Mike Hart, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:50 pm.
- Payment of MLC invoice for \$19,017.72 – Aren Ginsberg moved to approve the invoice, seconded by Jerrold Lander. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Mike Hart, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:57 pm.
- Budget amendments as presented – Aren Ginsberg moved to approve the budget amendments, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Mike Hart, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:58 pm.
- Extension of FFRCA benefits until March 31, 2021 – Aren Ginsberg moved to approve the extension of benefits, seconded by Dorothy Davis. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Mike Hart, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:01 pm.

President's Report – The Library director's review is on hold until Helen Nelling returns.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Scheduled to meet before next meeting, at 4 pm on March 20, 2021.

Building & Grounds – Met before this meeting—not yet getting the bond for construction—will be updating the outside and public entrances first—staff entrance will be updated later.

Long-Range Planning – Met on February 9, 2021. In November these areas were identified to address how the Library will function 5 years from now: collections, building and grounds, personnel, community engagement, IT, outreach, services, finances, patrons, programs, and sustainment. At this meeting they added best practices for a consortium, donations, and security to the list. Ways to address these topics include policy, training, contracting out projects, and using internal resources and personnel. Edmund Acosta will send write-up to other board members.

Personnel & Policy – Patrick Wall will bring succession plan to the committee.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.