

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
April 14, 2021

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

Members absent: LaTrice Johnson

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

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

The meeting was held online due to 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 5:16 pm by Joan Greco-Cohen, President, following roll call.

Minutes – The minutes from the March 10, 2021 meeting were approved at 5:18 pm; motion made by Aren Ginsberg, seconded by Helen Nelling.

Correspondence – The Library received donations in memory of Donald Stuerke and Dr. Lane Miller, as well as a note from a patron saying that UCPL is the best library in St. Louis and St. Charles. U City schools sent another thank you.

Council Liaison Report – *Olive & 170 project*: the north and east sides of the footprint were bought by the developer, closed on & sold to Costco; the City of University City received \$3 million for use in the Third Ward, especially on housing. Novus is now partnering with Bob Clark of Clayco for financing. Some residential properties still need to be purchased. The City has established a Relocation Office for business and residential assistance.

Delmar-Harvard project: Mr. Clay will check on the construction schedule.

Presentation from Community Member – This presentation has been postponed at the community member's request.

Librarian's Report – The Library is partnering with the Opera Theatre for four Zoom programs. The Memorial Day Run will have an in-person limit of 360 people. The Friends of the Library are having their Trivia Night via Zoom again this year. The new app looks great but cannot filter by format, but it's an interim one until the more robust app is finished this summer; switchover should be seamless for patrons.

The consent agenda was approved at 5:33 pm; motion made by Dorothy Davis, seconded by Cindy Zirwes.

Discussion Items – *Building issues*: The damaged window was boarded up today. Bond Architects recommends using Prosoco Revive to seal the building; it is safe for plants as well as for the building. Construction documents should be received in time for the May meeting. Bidding on the doors will begin May 3; will take 4 weeks for contractor to verify, then 8-10 weeks for ordering. Windows will be replaced after the masonry is cleaned & resealed. After exterior is finished, the interior design and process will be revisited; Bond estimates 6 months for interior renovations, beginning in September. Solar options are available through the City of University City; we will discuss with Bond. The building at 6900 Delmar is a possibility for the temporary storefront location; a letter of intent is being discussed with our lawyers.

Building reopening: Sunday hours resumed on April 11 with a soft opening; it was very quiet. May 3 is the target date to reopen the reference desk, with plexiglass. May 17 is the target date for all full-time employees to be back in the building 5 days a week.

Action Items

Extension of FFRCA benefits until May 31, 2021 – Aren Ginsberg moved to approve the extension of benefits, seconded by Helen Nelling. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Michael Hart, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:51 pm.

Personnel manual updates and extension of benefits – This item was moved to the May meeting agenda.

Closed session for personnel – Aren Ginsberg moved that the meeting enter closed session to discuss evaluation of the Library Director, Patrick Wall; seconded by Michael Hart. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Dorothy Davis, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Michael Hart, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: None. Motion passed by roll call vote at 5:55 pm. The meeting reopened at 6:07 pm.

President's Report – Joan Greco-Cohen asked the Board members to consider in which office they would be willing to serve.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – No report; Cindy Deichmann will begin sending Jerrold Lander scans of the bills paid every week.

Building & Grounds – The Library should send the letter of intent to rent 6900 Delmar as soon as possible.

Long-Range Planning – No report.

Personnel & Policy – Met earlier today, and will make a presentation at next month's meeting.

Old Business – New officers will be elected at the May meeting, to take over beginning at the June meeting.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm; so moved by Jerrold Lander, seconded by Cindy Zirwes.