

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
September 22, 2021

Members present: Helen Nelling, Jerrold Lander, Cindy Zirwes, Aren Ginsberg, Edmund Acosta, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson

Members absent:

Guest present: Mark Barnes

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.

A public hearing on the 2021 Library tax rate was opened at 5:17 pm. No members of the public spoke. The hearing was closed at 5:19 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm by Helen Nelling, President, following roll call.

Minutes – Jerrold Lander moved that the minutes from the July 29, 2021 special meeting be accepted, seconded by Joan Greco-Cohen; they were approved at 5:20 pm by unanimous voice vote. Edmund Acosta moved that the minutes from the June 22, 2021 special meeting be accepted, seconded by Aren Ginsberg; they were approved at 5:20 pm by unanimous voice vote. Jerrold Lander moved that the minutes from the June 16, 2021 special meeting be accepted, seconded by Cindy Zirwes; they were approved at 5:21 pm by unanimous voice vote.

Correspondence – The Library received a note from a patron regarding the Summer Reading Program, suggesting more uplifting reading for the next program; and an email expressing opposition to the Library checking out fishing rods to patrons. Patrick Wall thank the writers for their feedback. The Library was also mentioned in the Washington University newspaper, in a story about the university donating study carrels to the Library.

Council Liaison Report – Council held a retreat on September 18, 2021, and discussed several topics: a .25 cent sales tax for fire/ambulance service; creating a task force for the Third Ward on money from the Costco development (Council will vote in October to create the task force); social media community; taking the next step in street renaming and how to balance residents' needs, especially on Jackson; code compliance; possibly hiring someone to deal with River Des Peres issues at the federal level. Councilmember Clay has no update on the Delmar-Harvard hotel project; possibly construction will be happening soon.

Librarian's Report – Aren Ginsberg moved that the consent agenda be accepted, seconded by Cindy Zirwes. The consent agenda was accepted by unanimous voice vote at 5:57 pm.

Discussion Items – Mark Barnes was introduced; he will become an official member of the Board as soon as he is sworn in by the City Clerk.

An ad hoc committee was formed to decide how to honor Dorothy Davis for her three terms of service on the Board; members will be Edmund Acosta, Joan Greco-Cohen, and Helen Nelling.

Building renovation schedule has changed; Phase II has been broken into two parts. Bids for Phase IIa, demolition and hazard materials remediation, will be received in October for approval at the November 10, 2021 meeting. Contractors for Phase IIb, interior renovation, will be chosen at the February 2022 meeting.

Action Items

Adoption of Resolution 2021-2, regarding the setting of tax rates: A resolution to accept the proposed 2021 tax rates for the University City Public Library district was passed unanimously by roll call vote at 6:21 pm. The tax rates on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation are:

- Residential property: thirty five cents (.3500)
- Commercial property: thirty four and five tenths cents (.3450)
- Personal property: forty cents (.4000)

Jerrold Lander moved that the resolution be accepted, seconded by Joan Greco-Cohen.

- Edmund Acosta voted Aye.

- Aren Ginsberg voted Aye.
- Joan Greco-Cohen voted Aye.
- LaTrice Johnson voted Aye.
- Jerrold Lander voted Aye.
- Helen Nelling voted Aye.
- Cindy Zirwes voted Aye.

Approval of 2020-2021 Library Budget amendments: Edmund Acosta moved that the budget amendments be approved as submitted, seconded by Cindy Zirwes. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:28 pm.

Approval of payment request from RG Ross: RG Ross submitted a payment request in the amount of \$55,026.45, which was reviewed and approved by Bond Architects. Jerrold Lander moved that the payment request be approved, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:31 pm.

Approval of invoice from Bond Architects: Bond Architects has submitted two invoices for payment, in the amounts of \$40,064.30 and \$4,049.56. Joan Greco-Cohen moved that that the invoices be paid, seconded by Edmund Acosta. Aye votes: Edmund Acosta, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, LaTrice Johnson, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:32 pm.

Approval of Contract with Bond Architects: This action was tabled until after the Library's attorneys review the contract.

President's Report – No report.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Will schedule a meeting before November 10, 2021

Building & Grounds – Will schedule a meeting soon

Long-Range Planning – Will schedule a meeting before November 10, 2021

Personnel & Policy – Will schedule a meeting before October 13, 2021. President Helen Nelling requested that the committee develop a schedule to review policies every year or two.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.