

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees for the University City Public Library for
June 12, 2024

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

Members absent: Kim Deitzler, Jerrold Lander

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.

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

Minutes – Joan Greco-Cohen made a motion that the minutes from the meeting on May 8, 2024 be approved, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed at 5:18 pm.

Correspondence – The school district sent a thank you for participating in their open house.

Council Liaison Report – Council approved the police station renovation, with financing from Stifel that the City feels complies with the charter, although it's possible that a lawsuit will be filed contesting that. Council approved renovation of the old Commerce Bank to 259 apartment units—not student housing—with 399 underground parking spaces. Coffee shop(s) are being added at the Costco development. Crescent Plumbing is open, and hopefully Cunningham industrial park will be revitalized. Clearing the MSD tunnels of debris seems to have helped flooding during the last large rainfall. Patrick Wall asked for reappointment of four Board members: Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Mark Barnes, Kathleen Simpson.

President's Report – The Library's grand opening extravaganza will be on Sunday June 30, with a planning meeting on June 18. Thank you to the people who worked this year's Memorial Day Run, which was a big success. Judging for the Mannequins Project was June 9; the winning entry will be on display here at the Library.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Met June 12. The committee recommends passing the cost of living/merit increases as recommended by Personnel & Policy, as well as the full budget as presented.

Building & Grounds – Met June 12. The toilet in YS has been reattached but is still leaking; the terrazzo floor was repaired; UCity in Bloom is doing great work in the garden; all stuff stored off-site has been moved back into the building; alarm system installation is in progress; YS bathtubs are being refinished; lights on the skylight are to come; the elevator phone dialer will be replaced.

Long-Range Planning – Met in May, will meet next in September rather than June.

Personnel & Policy – Met June 11. The committee recommends a cost of living increase of 4% effective July 1, 2024, and a merit increase of 5% in January 2025, so that staff are paid competitively with other libraries in the area. Helen Nelling suggested an ad hoc committee to review by-laws this summer; Aren Ginsberg, Mark Barnes, and Joan Greco-Cohen will join. Patrick Wall will investigate the cost of board self-evaluation material from United for Libraries for this fall.

Librarian's Report – Aren Ginsberg made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:03 pm.

Discussion Items – *Building*. The public restrooms near the auditorium will now be locked except when meetings are held in the auditorium, due to issues requiring significant staff time to adjudicate.

Trustee training. Board members watched and discussed a short video, "Succession Planning & New Board Member Orientation," provided by United for Libraries.

Action Items – *Approval of 2024-2025 budget with adjusted pay grades*. Aren Ginsberg made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget with adjusted pay grades as presented, seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:23 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Aren Ginsberg, Joan Greco-Cohen, Dennis Hoppe, Helen Nelling, Kathleen Simpson, and Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

Old Business – Revision of the mission statement will be ready for the September 2024 meeting. Mark Barnes will share a short draft proposal regarding hosting a University City Hall of Fame at the Library; the Historical Society is open to discussion regarding their participation.

New Business – The Library should prepare a draft statement regarding issues that the St. Charles Public Library system is facing, in case anyone requests it; the Board will approve it after the grand opening event is finished.

Public comment – None received.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.