

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees of the University City Public Library for  
**December 10, 2025**

Members present: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Helen Nelling, Trish Winchell, Cindy Zirwes.

Members absent: Jerrold Lander

City Council Liaison: Stacy Clay

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director, Kerry Bruce

---

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 Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Helen Nelling made a motion that the minutes from the meeting on November 12, 2025 be approved, seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:16 pm.

Correspondence – Four correspondence were shared, as well as several donation checks to the Library.

Council Liaison Report – City Manager Gregory Rose will retire on February 6, 2026, and there will be an extensive search for his replacement. The Dierbergs is coming along at Olive and 170 – still no information on what businesses will occupy the other two buildings of that development. The Circle K move was discussed, as well as unoccupied buildings and new buildings on the Loop. Mr. Clay announced that he will not run for City Council at the end of his term.

President's Report –

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Treasury bill was renewed, and discussion of budgetary effects of the senior property tax freeze

Building & Grounds – Albert Arno came out several times and was finally able to fix the heat, the Library will post the RFQ for the project to install doors for the first floor restrooms, and RG Ross finally fixed the window leaks.

Long-Range Planning – No meeting in December

Personnel & Policy – Discussion re: hiring for Office Manager and Part Time Reference Assistant positions (the Library is checking references for finalists), meeting room policy revisions and missing child policy, potential updates to the surveillance policy based on information

Librarian's Report – Helen Nelling made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:59pm.

Discussion Items – Courts have overturned the law allowing teachers to be arrested or jailed for circulating materials, and the closure of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (or, at least, the layoff of all employees). Patrick is invited to attend the National Library Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. The Missouri Library Association's Advocacy Day is coming up in February, and Board members are invited to attend. The library received a patron complaint.

Action Items.

*Missing Child Policy.* Aren Ginsberg made a motion to accept the policy as recommended by the Personnel & Policy Committee, seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:01pm pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Helen Nelling, Trish Winchell, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

*Meeting Room Policy.* Helen Nelling made a motion to accept the policy revisions as recommended by the Personnel & Policy Committee, seconded by Trish Winchell. Motion passed by roll call vote at 6:03 pm. Aye votes: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Helen Nelling, Trish Winchell, Cindy Zirwes. Nay votes: none.

Old business – Brief discussion of the motivations for revising the meeting room policy, and how the library can improve, what more the library can do for the unhoused and mentally ill. Rise in school enrollments in U City.

New business – The people want more music events! The Library will also reach out to the high school for performances.

Public comment – None.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.