

Meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees of the University City Public Library for

March 11, 2026

Members present: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes

Members absent: Trish Winchell

City Council Liaison absent: Stacy Clay

Library Staff: Patrick Wall - Director, Kerry Bruce, Tracey Howe-Koch

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 5:15pm by Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Helen Nelling made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. It was seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:16pm.

Correspondence - Valentine cards from the Flynn Park 3rd grade class were shared.

Council Liaison – Absent.

President Report – Mark Barnes noted it has been a busy week of Council meetings.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – The Committee is moving forward with focus groups to gather a better representation of University City for the library survey. There was discussion about hiring a Social Worker for the library but the Committee feels the City should fund the position as it is a community issue.

Personnel and Policy – The Committee discussed adding domestic partner and parental leave policies to employee benefits. Helen Nelling and Trish Winchell will work on draft policies to take to the Committee and the attorney before bringing them to the full Board.

Building and Grounds – The Youth Services endcap shelving issues have been resolved. Bieg Plumbing fixed the faucet/hose leak on the roof. Window cleaners have been contracted for work in April. The Library has contracted expanded cleaning services with Jan-Pro. Patrick Wall is investigating the possibility of solar panels for the roof and electric vehicle charging stations for the parking lot. The Committee recommends that the Library contract with Bond Architects for the bathroom door additions.

Budget and Finance – The financials are in good shape. Moodys is changing the way they conduct ratings – valuing accrual accounting higher than cash accounting. Therefore, the Library’s rating has dropped to an A-. The T-Bill will be rolled over. The Committee recommends hiring Bond Architects for the bathroom project. The Committee also recommends paying BOKF for servicing the debt.

Librarian’s Report

The University City Council has appointed Barbara Santoro to the UCPL Board. She will attend the next meeting as she has not yet been sworn in. Patrick Wall and Mark Barnes will give her an orientation to the Library and the Board. Former Youth Services Director, Marilyn Philips has passed away. The Friends of the Library are reaching out to her family to determine the best way to honor her memory. HPES has relocated for the foreseeable future. It is hoped they will return to the Library once ICE activity has slowed down. The Puzzle Race event on March 18 has proven to be very popular. Patrick Wall is seeing if there is a way to expand the event to more than five teams as there is a long wait list of interested participants. The Spelling Bee was well attended and successful. The top two winners will move on to the district finals. There have been a few very disruptive patrons that have resulted in library bans for up to a year. Cindy Zirwes thanked Patrick Wall for the advocacy work he did in Washington, DC. Patrick Wall is hoping to have more information at the next meeting regarding the loaning out of the Library’s pottery.

Aren Ginsberg made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:33pm.

Action Items

Architect RFQ – Helen Nelling motioned to accept Bond Architecture’s proposal to renovate the bathroom doors. It was seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:36pm

BOKF Invoice – Helen Nelling motioned to pay the required debt service amount due of \$319,623.80. It was seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:38pm.

Old Business – none

New Business – Kim Deitzler complimented the Vivian Gibson author event. It was well attended and she gave a wonderful presentation.

Public Comments – A patron noted that Ruthie Rochman did a great job helping a book group find new books. Another patron complimented the whole staff and would like to buy them lunch.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:15pm.