

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

April 15, 2026

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

Members absent: Jerrold Lander and Barbara Santoro

City Council Liaison: 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 – Aren Ginsberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. It was seconded by Kim Deitzler. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:17pm.

Correspondence - A combative patron has requested that Library staff bring the Library scooter out to his car when he visits the library. He was informed that we do not have extra staff to assist with this. Another patron called to express their appreciation for the wonderful assistance that Regan Slaughter and Ruthie Rochman were able to provide her. A London based film company reached out about the possibility of using the library as a location to interview subjects for their documentary regarding events in Kirksville, MO in 2017.

Council Liaison – Following the April election, all incumbents have retained their seats. Christina Dancy will be the new Ward 3 representative, replacing Stacy Clay. It has not been determined who will be the new liaison to the Library Board. The City Manager search is underway and applications have now been closed. Councilman Clay shared that Dierbergs is opening on May 5 and Target on May 12. The City is aware that traffic issues will likely arise on that stretch of Olive and are being proactive on working with the State and County on mitigating any issues as the roads are managed by several public entities. The City is still struggling with vacancies along Delmar. Many of the vacant storefronts are owned by private landlords and there is not a lot the City can do. A question was asked regarding the updates to Heman Park. Councilman Clay noted that the while there is not a comprehensive plan, the basketball courts are being moved/improved and pickleball courts are being added. MSD is planning to install large water overflow tanks near Heman Park to help prevent flooding.

Thank you and appreciation to Stacy Clay were expressed as this is his last meeting with the Library Board.

President Report – Today is Tax Day, April 15, 2026. Today is also “know your customer day.” We do a good job of knowing who our customer is. The tax payers are our customers and we provide a good return on their investment. Thank you, Patrick and staff members.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – Did not meet.

Personnel and Policy – The Library has hired one new Shelver and is in the process of hiring another one. One Clerk and one Tech Services employee have tendered their resignations.

Building and Grounds – The windows have been cleaned. Bond Architects are coming Thursday to assess the bathroom doors and to determine the cost/possibility for solar panels and charging stations at the Library. Cindy Zirwes suggested establishing a plaque to honor past and current Library employees. The Committee recommends that the Board accept the proposal to expand Jan-Pro Services’ cleaning contract for up to \$25,000 annually.

Budget and Finance – The Committee recommends that the Board accept the expanded Jan-Pro Services cleaning contract for up to \$25,000 annually. The Committee also recommends that the Board approve the \$500,000 wire limit for BOKF payments.

Librarian’s Report - Helen Nelling motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:49pm.

Action Items

Wire Limit – Helen Nelling motioned to accept the \$500,000 wire limit for payments to BOKF. It was seconded by Cindy Zirwes. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:51pm.

Jan-Pro Contract – Dennis Hoppe motioned to approve the Jan-Pro Services expanded services contract for up to \$25,000 annually. It was seconded by Trish Winchell. Motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote at 5:52pm.

Old Business – none

New Business – Patrick Wall shared that he will be retiring and stepping down as Director. He is willing to stay in the position for up to six months as a new Director is selected. Helen Nelling motioned that the Board set up a Selection Committee to lead the search for a new Director. Dennis Hoppe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:54pm.

Dennis Hoppe, Helen Nelling, Cindy Zirwes, and Trish Winchell will serve on the Selection Committee. The Committee will look into placement firms and will bring to the Board possibilities and costs.

Patrick Wall will announce his decision to the staff in the next few days. There were numerous accolades and thanks for Patrick Wall's leadership. He will be greatly missed. Patrick Wall shared his appreciation for the Board's continued support.

Public Comments – none

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 5:15pm.