

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

May 13, 2026

Members present: Mark Barnes, Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Jerrold Lander, Barbara Santoro, Cindy Zirwes, and Trish Winchell

Members absent: Helen Nelling, Dennis Hoppe

City Council Liaison: Absent

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 5:13pm by Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Aren Ginsberg motioned to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. It was seconded by Jerrold Lander. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstention by roll call vote at 5:14pm.

Correspondence - A Scout has requested permission to do their Eagle Project for the library. The Board would like to see renderings of any possible ideas before it is approved. The library will work with them to find a good project fit.

The library has received the loan agreement for the Taxile Doat pottery pieces to go to the Wadsworth Atheneum for exhibition. Trish Winchell would like clarification on paragraph 2 regarding insurance coverage. Patrick Wall will consult with the library's lawyers.

Council Liaison – Absent.

President Report – Mark Barnes welcomed Barbara Santoro to the Library Board. Ms. Santoro shared that she has a background in education and is happy to be serving on the Board. She will serve on the Long Range Planning and Building & Grounds Committees.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – The Committee is preparing for summer focus groups. Patrick Wall has recruited more participants and will reach out for a few more. The Committee is still interested in the library hiring a Social Worker. While this is a city-wide issue, the City is not interested in funding the position. The Committee will look into other funding sources and bring it to the Library Board Liaison.

Personnel and Policy – The library will be hiring a new Tech Services position. There are currently three internal candidates. The Committee is reviewing and updating the Domestic

Partner and Family Leave policies. The Committee reviewed three search firms to assist with the hiring of a new Library Director. They are recommending, subject to review by the Search Committee, hiring Organizational Architects as they are experienced in library searches and are well regarded. The fee is a percentage of the candidate's salary with portions of it coming from this year's and next year's budgets. The Committee will set up a follow-up meeting with Organizational Architects and, if it goes well, will move forward with a special Board Zoom meeting to approve the choice.

Building and Grounds – The yearly backflow and elevator inspections went well. Maplewood Plumbing will be repairing some toilet issues. Patrick Wall met with Bond Architects to review the bathroom door proposal and the Committee recommends moving forward with it. Bond Architects will provide the solar panels and charging station proposal soon.

Budget and Finance – Library staff continues to not be able to access New World from the library, necessitating all budgeting, payroll and bill paying be done at City Hall. There was a question regarding the payment of several invoices from Ascent Midwest. Patrick Wall explained the invoices had been emailed to his spam folder and were missed. The library is now current on payments and the email has been updated. In reviewing the library's income statement, Patrick Wall noticed that a deposit (via check) from the State of Missouri was not reflected on the income statement. He will follow-up with the State and City to figure out where it was allocated. Going forward, Patrick Wall and Tracey Howe-Koch will review all bank statements to reconcile our receipts with the City's accounting. The Friends of the Library have generously donated \$33,000 to the library. Thank you! The T-Bill is maturing on May 21, 2026. The Committee voted to purchase a new one at the same rate. There is some concern that the State may reduce their support of public libraries. The Senate has passed a bill to allow Library's to utilize a sales tax. This may be necessary if the State decides to no longer collect property taxes.

Librarian's Report – There is a lot excitement for the Summer Reading Program. Eddy Harris, author of Mississippi Solo, will be presenting at the library on June 3rd and his documentary, River to the Heart will be presented on June 17. Additionally, there will be several programs and camps for school-age and younger children. Patrick Wall shared Kirkwood Public Library's plaque for honoring employees and in-memoriams. The Board would like to do something similar for the University City Public Library. Finally, the MLC decided to change patron expiration dates from 2 to 5 years as it will reduce expenses.

Jerrold Lander motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Cindy Zirwes. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 6:15pm.

Action Items

Search Firm Choice – Jerrold Lander motioned for the Search Committee to meet with Organizational Architects and if terms are agreeable, call a Zoom meeting of the Board to approve the contract. It was seconded by Cindy Zirwes and passed unanimously by roll call vote at 6:16pm.

Wadsworth Atheneum Request – Trish Winchell motioned that pending consultation with the Lawyers regarding insurance coverage, that the Board approve the Wadsworth Antheneum contract. Kim Deitzler seconded and motioned passed unanimously by roll call vote at 6:17pm.

Old Business – The Memorial Day Run is still looking for volunteers. As it is the library's only fundraiser, please consider volunteering.

Mark Barnes expressed gratitude to the Search Committee for their work as it determines the future direction of the library.

New Business – Kim Deitzel expressed her thanks to the library for sending Erin Hood to the MASL conference.

Public Comments – None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 5:15pm.