

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University City Public Library for
June 29, 2025

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

Members absent: none

Guest: Mark Fiala

City Council Liaison:

Library staff: Patrick Wall—Director

The meeting was held in hybrid format. Some board members participated via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 4pm by Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Helen Nelling made a motion that the minutes from the meeting on June 10, 2026 be approved, seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 4:03pm.

Correspondence – none

Council Liaison Report – none

Librarian's Report – no discussion

Discussion Items – Mark Fiala, from Organizational Architecture joined us to discuss the search for candidates for the Director position. The position will be posted in the coming week. Mark Fiala thanked the board for their responses to his survey. Among the top competencies chosen by board members were communications, intellectual freedom, ethics, advocacy, and problem solving. Necessary qualifications brought forth by board members included a Masters degree in Library Sciences, someone who is able to provide a smooth transition, someone who will be able to work well with staff, and someone with strong community engagement skills.

The appeal of the position to candidates was discussed.

Board members discussed their expectations for the new director in working with the Board, with various stakeholders in the community and with the public.

Challenges that still need to be met by the Library will include working with emerging readers, with immigrant populations and Spanish speaking residents.

A survey will be sent to current UCPL staff for their input on what they are looking for in a new director.

The board believes that the new director should be adaptable to changing circumstances, but that the successful candidate would also be able to keep the Library on the current path.

Mark Fiala and Organizational Architecture will be working on the job description, ads, and a position profile.

Action Items—none

Old business – none

New business –none

Public comment – Letter sent by patron in favor of Kerry Bruce was discussed

The next Special Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 1, at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.