

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

August 26, 2026

Members present: Mark Barnes (Zoom), Kim Deitzler, Aren Ginsberg, Dennis Hoppe, Jerrold Lander, Helen Nelling (Zoom), Cindy Zirwes, and Trish Winchell (Zoom)

Members absent: Barbara Santoro

City Council Liaison: Christina Dancy

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 5:20 pm by Mark Barnes, President, followed by roll call.

Minutes – Aren Ginsberg motioned to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. It was seconded by Helen Nelling. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:22pm.

Correspondence – None.

Council Liaison – The City Council is still in the transition period under new City Manager Brooke Sharp's leadership. Current topics of discussion include the Ruth Park driving range, street/sidewalks repairs, and a greenway connecting Heman Park to the 3rd Ward. Additionally, there has been discussion on the Flock cameras and how the data is being shared. The Markets at Olive are doing better than anticipated. The City is in the process of reconciling the budget and finishing the audit process. Christina Dancy shared that the City was going to install EV charging stages, but the grant has been cancelled and there are no plans to install them in the immediate future.

President Report – None.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – None.

Personnel and Policy – The Committee will meet on September 2, 2026 to review applications for the Library Director position. There are several good candidates.

Building and Grounds – Susan Pruchnicki from Bond Architects met with the committee to discuss the proposal for the solar panels and EV charging stations. It is anticipated that total costs for the solar panels will be approximately \$900,000. The breakeven point is 15-20 years. Additionally, the inverter will likely need to be replaced in 10 years. The solar panels will cover

about 2/3 of the Library's electrical needs and it is not expected to break-even with the EV charging stations. It would be a service provided to the patrons and not away to increase funding. Susan Pruchnicki will provide updated estimates separating the two projects. It was noted that grant funding is no longer available for solar and electric projects. Patrick Wall will reach out to Maplewood and The Heights to discuss their experiences with EV charging stations. Construction on the new Library bathroom doors will start September 29. There will be email, social media, and sign notices informing the public of this work and that the only bathrooms available are on the second floor of the Library.

Budget and Finance – The Committee approved rolling over the T-bills. They recommend that the Board approve the invoices from Ingram. The invoices reflect three delayed large shipment of books. The Committee is waiting to hear from the City before they discuss whether or not to recommend the FY2026 Library Budget Amendments. The City expects to be working on the budget items in September and the auditor noted that as long as everything is together by November, the audit could proceed.

Librarian's Report – The Library has banned three patrons over the summer. One had threatened a staff member and two were in a physical altercation with each other.

Hellen Nelling motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Aren Ginsberg. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 5:59pm.

Action Items

Ingram Invoices – Aren Ginsberg motioned for the Board to approve paying the Ingram invoices for a total of \$3,9702.33. Jerrold Lander seconded and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 6:01pm.

Fiscal Year 2026 Library Budget Amendments – Tabled.

Solar and EV Charging Station Proposal – The Buildings and Grounds Committee will investigate splitting the costs for the solar panels and EV charging stations and confer with other library systems on their EV charging stations.

Old Business – There was no old business.

New Business – The Libby App now has access to the Scenic Regional Library catalogue.

Public Comments – None.

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

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 5:15pm.