

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
February 19, 2025
Zoom

Board Attendance: Harms, McLaughlin, McKee, Pitt Kaplan, Price, Reyes-Jones, Smith, Wolshock
Board Absent: Missey
Staff Attendance: Christa Van Herreweghe, Lisa Henry
Guests: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Smith at 5:03 p.m.

Business from the audience –

Public Comments: None.

Minutes: Reyes-Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, Wolshock seconded, and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance, with Pitt Kaplan abstaining.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

Feds – On January 28 the news reported all federal grants and loans were cancelled. KPL has over \$25k in unpaid grant payments for grants in progress, MLC had another 40k so it was a day of panic. It has since been rescinded.

State – Smith and Van Herreweghe attended Library Legislative Day in Jefferson City. The new Secretary of State spoke, had some nice things to say about libraries and announced his appointment of Janet Caruthors to be the state librarian. Van Herreweghe has been submitting fiscal notes on legislation that will affect the library, especially the bill that is up again to make library boards an elected position.

MEC/MLC – MEC user conference is coming up next month. A couple of staff from KPL and some other MLC libraries will be attending. The MLC is currently working on their budget.

City of Kirkwood – Open enrollment ended on February 14th and insurance costs are going up 5% this year.

KPL – Nice story in the Webster Kirkwood Times about the Library, coming after Paul Schaeffer mentioned the library at a council meeting. Van Herreweghe was recently a reader for the Library's Read Attack program, which promotes reading for fourth graders, as that is a pivotal year in becoming a lifelong reader or not. Youth Services works with librarians at the schools and sets up "celebrity" readers to show up and read the beginning of the book, then students can check out copies to finish the story. YS also sets up a Zoom author visit of one of

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the books - this year it will be Lindsay Currie, author of *The Mystery of Locked Rooms*. Last Sunday was Henry's 20th work anniversary.

Incidents – No new incidents this month.

Meetings – Van Herreweghe attended the MEC general membership meeting.

Board Education – Staff training coming up will be about: Patron privacy - ALA code of ethics: We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

182.817. Disclosure of library records not required — exceptions — complaint may be filed for compromised privacy, procedure. — 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, no library, employee or agent of a library, or third party contracted by a library that receives, transmits, maintains, or stores library records shall release or disclose a library record or portion of a library record

Our policies cover patron privacy in SEVERAL areas.

Favorite program/Special events – Ben Clark's presentation, *Alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, will be tomorrow night at KPAC at 7 p.m.

Trustees' Reports – None

President's Report – Smith reported she enjoyed the trip to Jefferson City, everyone was welcoming, and she saw that Van Herreweghe was respected by many. Talked about how fun Read Attack was and mentioned her neighbor said she loves the new consortium.

Committee Reports –

Finance: Reyes-Jones made a motion to approve the committee minutes of January 19th, Wolshock seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the committee members. McKee reported two more tax payments were received in February so the Library has received 95% of expected tax revenue with four months to go. The Library has received a total of 63% of the entire operations revenue budget and has spent 55% of the operations expense budget. Staff has made good progress on the FY 26 budget and the committee will meet in March to discuss. Henry reported In January the Library received over \$257,000 in property taxes, over \$4,000 in appeal donations, over \$2,000 in the shop and \$8,000 in grant money. Reference is in their busy season with passports, they brought in over \$7,000. Under Expenses the Library is right where it should be with personnel costs, with 55% of the budget spent, and there was nothing unusual in the operations expenses this month. Under the reserves expense budget bills were paid for the meeting room carpet and the New Books Room. The endowment fund was used for the furniture down payment for the New Books Room and for the column shelving and more Hot Reads.

Building and Grounds: Reyes-Jones reported the painters are here today to start the painting in the New Books Room and the restrooms. All of the wallpaper is hung in the restrooms. Furniture for the New Books Room is a couple weeks away and the shelving for reference is

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about a month away from arriving. The Constant Gardener has done a great job again keeping the walkways clear, and the HVAC system is keeping the building warm.

Personnel: None.

Development: Price reported the endowment fund has increased to \$1,948,952. The appeal has slowed down finally and has brought in \$30,107 surpassing the budget goal of \$30,000. Sixty pavers will be added in the spring.

Board Operations: McLaughlin reported trustees should be thinking about what committees they would like to be on next year.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business –

Lodge New Policy – The state library informed libraries of a new requirement from the federal government to be eligible for grants. Van Herreweghe plugged in the exact wording given in place of a section that needed to be deleted because of the revised appendixes and other policies about Internet use.

Sign Ethics Policy – Annual signing of the ethics policy will occur at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Price and seconded by Smith to adjourn the regular board meeting at 5:38 pm, which passed by unanimous vote of the Trustees in attendance.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19 at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations