

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

March 19, 2025

Meeting Room, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson

Board Attendance: Harms, McLaughlin, McKee, Missey, Pitt Kaplan, Price, Smith, Wolshock

Board Absent: Reyes-Jones

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: Price made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, McKee seconded, and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

Feds – IMLS is under attack right now but funding for libraries is in place through September. IMLS subsidizes ILL courier service, training, and MOREnet, through Erate.

State – The secretary of state is suspending support for Overdrive, without discussing with staff or State Librarian, and now it appears it will only affect SOARA (schools). Other items of interest include the possibility of library boards needing to be elected and the reduction of personal property assessments, which could lead to a decrease of over \$400,000 in monies for the Library.

MEC/MLC – Van Herreweghe will be attending the MEC user conference on Friday. There should be three seats open for the MEC board and Van Herreweghe will be running for one of them. The new ILS system is working better as staff gets used to it.

KPL – Van Herreweghe met with the executive producer of Stages to discuss a partnership this summer when they are doing a show about Jane Austen. KPL is joining other MLC libraries in banning a patron who has committed violent acts at other libraries in the area. A patron called about the storywalk, thrilled because the current book was written by her friend. Mel Lambert received a thank you from a patron she helped with information on small businesses, along with an invite to the opening of their new business. Van Herreweghe will be speaking to groups made up of staff, board members and volunteers for ideas for programming and marketing for the Library's 100th anniversary.

Trustees' Reports – None

President's Report – Smith reported the board will go into closed session next month to discuss Van Herreweghe's review.

Committee Reports –

Finance: McKee reported the committee had just met and approved the FY 26 budget, to be lodged with the full board in April. Eighty seven percent of the revenue budget has been received and 66% of the expense budget has been spent. Henry reported 96% of the tax revenue has been received, and the Library is over the budgets for the appeal and gifts/donations. Next month there will be some budget amendments to clean up some line items.

Building and Grounds: Henry reported the painting is complete in all of the restrooms and the New Books Room. The new curved shelving around the columns in the New Books Room was installed, all that is left in there is the furniture. The shelving for the Reference collection was installed on the main floor near the Reference desk, and the collection was moved there. The elevator stopped working for a few days but has been fixed, the lock on one of the front doors had to be replaced and the exterminator finished the spring spray this morning. During the storms last Friday a small amount of water came into the children's room under the emergency exit door and ServePro dried it up.

Personnel: McKee made a motion to approve the personnel committee minutes, Price seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the committee. Price reported the trustees should review the director's review form and last year's review and turn in responses to Price by April 3rd.

Development: Price reported the endowment fund has increased to \$1,949,384. The appeal has brought in \$30,800 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, May will be the last meeting for three trustees. The committee will be meeting to determine officers for next year.

Unfinished Business

Approve 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. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the policy update, Price seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance

New Business –

Kirkwood Public Library Board of Trustees
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Sign Ethics Policy – Trustees signed the ethics policy.

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, April 16th at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations