

**KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
September 17, 2025
Meeting Room, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson**

Board Attendance: Eads, Harms, McKee, Pitt Kaplan, Taylor, Ward, Wolshock
Board Absent: Smith, Missey
Staff Attendance: Christa Van Herreweghe, Lisa Henry, Rachel Johannigmeier
Guests: City Council Liaison Paul Schaefer

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Pitt Kaplan at 5:02 p.m. Trustees discussed their favorite life-changing books.

Business from the audience –

Public Comments: Schaefer reported on Jefferson's raised crosswalks, extending traffic lights' time to cross, and TDD street repairs beginning.

Minutes: Eads made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, Ward seconded, McKee abstained and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

Staff Presentation – Summer Reading –YS Manager Rachel Johannigmeier presented on summer reading. This summer, the library saw an increase percentage-wise in the various age groups, with 74% of children reaching 5 hours of reading, and 67% of teens reaching a 10 hour level of reading. Over 1050 children signed up by the end of Kick-off Day. The number of sign ups for teen was 201. The library saw great participation in Wacky Wednesdays, Baby Yoga, Storytime, and other events held at the library. Patrons told stories about how their child reached 50 or 100 hours this year for the first time, and both the 50 hour newspaper list and the 100 hour reader lists saw an increase in numbers.

Staff Presentation – Staff Endowment Request for Homeborrower Program – Christa Van Herreweghe - Lynne Haynes has been doing memory cafes that keep attracting more people. A woman from the MO Arts Commission approached her to give her \$8,000 to continue the program. The staff endowment grant would give \$5000 to enhance the program even further and allow for more of her time to be spent on the program.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reviewed the new dashboard which will be on the website, showed trustees the new logo for the 100th anniversary and then reported:

Feds - money is being allocated to libraries in proposed budgets but so far IMLS hasn't been reauthorized. It is possible a different department would administer grants to the libraries.

State: The state committee on property tax reform has concluded. They have filed several bills that "reform" property taxes. Van Herreweghe testified before this committee when they were

in Clayton. There is a larger group of libraries now meeting regularly to figure out what any of these new laws would mean for libraries.

MEC/MLC: The MLC is working together to come up with a plan for what we want to change in our new consortium - better communication, more sharing, resources going to develop projects we want/need. We are going to work together to try to make progress. Van Herreweghe and Karen Young met with the new MEC board president and have invited her to come to one of the MLC meetings to talk about her priorities.

City of Kirkwood – Van Herreweghe attended the City Council meeting with the hearing on tax rates, which are set for final approval tonight but slight changes may be made before Oct 1. Van Herreweghe worked the beer booth for Rotary at the Greentree festival.

KPL - Van Herreweghe reviewed the new centennial logo, and the new dashboard. The flagpole is open for bids. Staff are working on centralized cataloging w/ U City Library, and KPL was chosen for the LJ design institute so have had a couple of meetings with the architects.

Meetings – The president of the Missouri Library Association stopped by and talked to Van Herreweghe about the direction of the organization and her vision for her presidential year. Enterprise bank non-profit group meets quarterly, and Van Herreweghe and Mel Lambert attended as there is plenty of crossover with the KW DesPeres chamber, etc. Van Herreweghe attended a chamber event where Mel spoke about her ALPS program that completed earlier this year via grant funding. The volunteer appreciation event for shop and book sorters was Jane Austen themed. Van Herreweghe attended an MEC general membership meeting and made a motion on a billing process for Aspen that means KPL will pay \$1,000 less per year. Van Herreweghe met with the KW Historical Society to discuss doing cross promotion of our February Black History events. The Centennial Celebration committee met to discuss items for next year. Mel and Van Herreweghe met with the new person at the KW downtown business district and attended the ribbon cutting at the new library (and a couple other buildings) at the Meramec campus. They have been great partners with us on One Author One Kirkwood.

Trustees' Reports –

President's Report – Pitt Kaplan encouraged trustees to attend the annual Board and Commission Reception in October.

Committee Reports –

Finance: Wolshock reported there is usually a breakdown of the personal and real estate taxes based on the paperwork we receive on the finance report, however due to new system issues County has not sent the paperwork for a couple of months now. They are at least sending the actual money, so that's good. The Library has already received \$17,680 in taxes.

Currently overall the Library has received 2% of our expected revenue, with the bulk of our tax money expected in December and January. The Library has spent 18% of the operations expense budget, and have paid a few things that are paid annually, such as the internet and magazine subscriptions.

The auditor is almost done with all of his online work and will be at the Library for a site visit tomorrow morning. McKee made a motion to approve the minutes from the committee meeting.

Henry reported that so far this fiscal year the Library has received \$5,868 in interest, \$9,625 in passport processing fees, \$11,324 in grants and over \$1,000 in donations on top of the annual appeal. The shop has made over \$6,000. Under Expenses – under utilities line 453 Telephone – this includes our annual MOREnet payment which covers the internet. And under Library materials line 510 Subscriptions – the Library pays all of the magazine subscriptions in one payment. Consortium costs are high but will be reimbursed by the MLC.

Building and Grounds: Harms reported there was an alarm on the fire panel that said there was an issue in the elevator shaft. After the alarm and elevator companies both came it was discovered the alarm was mislabeled and the issue was in the ceiling, had nothing to do with the elevator, so the elevator had been shut down for no reason. Then evidence of mice was discovered in a staff member's desk drawer, so the exterminators were here doing a full building inspection and setting traps. They will be back tomorrow. This is the first time we have seen mice since the building was renovated, the exterminator said the front yard work probably sent them in. Finally, we have put a bid out for a new flagpole and for its installation. Fingers crossed, the doors have been okay and the HVAC did a great job this summer - no complaints from anyone about being uncomfortable in here.

Personnel: McKee reported the committee had just met to discuss their objectives and will be reviewing the rubric for director evaluation.

Development: Henry reported the endowment fund continues to do well - currently there is \$2,096,530 in the fund. In the first three months of this fiscal year we have received \$2,072 towards last year's annual appeal as we start to prepare for the upcoming appeal. We have 13 new donations towards pavers so we will be installing those in early October. The total for last year's appeal is now \$34,631

Board Operations: No report.

Unfinished Business
None.

New Business –

Approve Staff Endowment Request – McKee made a motion to approve the staff endowment grant request of \$5,000, Taylor seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

A motion was made by Wolschock and seconded by Harms to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:25 pm, which passed by unanimous vote of the Trustees in attendance.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15th at **5:00** pm.
Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations