

**KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
January 21, 2026
Meeting Room, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson**

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

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Smith at 5:07 pm.

Business from the audience –

City council – Schaefer reported there will be a new CAO coming, a search committee starting next week, hired a company to conduct the search. Electric rates will be going up again, there hasn't been a rate increase since 2016. Borrowed money to keep electric going. Twelve years ago the city was 2 million in debt, now they are 68 million in debt. Full council approval to find out what to do with the water company. Will be looking at studies to see value. Route 66 celebration – kickoff at KPAC on February 8th. February 28th tree unveiling at KPAC by mayor.

Minutes: Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, Eads seconded and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

Staff Endowment Grant Request: O'Neal presented on the request for updating the Library's 3D Print service by replacing the two printers for a cost of \$4,000. The Library has offered printing since 2015. A lot of people are regulars, hundreds of kids and teens get a coupon for a print for summer reading each year. Will be using a different company. Has curated list of items patrons can pick from, will need to review the items. Expects to have printers up and running by summer reading. Will include surveys to get patrons feedback.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

State: St. Louis County estimates the Library will see \$25,100 less in tax revenue from the senior tax freeze.

MLC/MEC: The MLC decided to share Overdrive collections with Scenic regional.

KPL: The local author fair was a huge success, with almost 200 people attending and many books were purchased. Authors and attendees were very enthusiastic about a future event. Read Attack is underway and the fire chief was even a reader. New system is underway to allow patrons to renew their library cards via a form.

Grants: We received \$91,429.59 in grants since the January 2025 meeting. Gaylord gave us money for summer reading. Mel Lambert got a \$6000 donation from Mercy for her program. Van Herreweghe has received over 60 cookbooks.

Meetings – New banners going around downtown next week thanks to downtown Kirkwood's grant, will include Library centennial. The library joined the MO Special District Association – a group that includes organizations throughout the state who rely on taxes (mostly property) for their budgets. Library legislative day coming up on February third. Last week Van Herreweghe met with a young scout working on her Silver Award project which will deal with literacy and reading books about diverse characters. Van Herreweghe received the Library Journal reviewer of the year for her reviews of audiobooks.

Incidents: Two gentlemen threatened to fight by the computers but left without further incident.

Trustees' Reports – Pitt Kaplan suggested the Library attend the schools to sign up students for Library cards so they can access Sora (reading app for students from Overdrive). Discussion followed about library card access for those under 16 and parental permission.

President's Report – Smith thanked the trustees for their participation in the annual appeal.

Committee Reports –

Finance: Eads reported the committee had just met with the Morgan Stanley representatives and reviewed the endowment fund. The committee approved a grant amount for 2026 for 3% of the funds for a total of \$66,438, as there will be more of a need this year for centennial celebrations. Smith made a motion to approve the amount, Pitt Kaplan seconded and the amount of \$66,438 was approved as the staff endowment grant for 2026. The library has received 66% of its operations revenue budget and spent 48% of its expense budget.

Building and Grounds: Henry reported the carpet is on its way here and is set to be delivered to the library on February 2nd. The Library will be under construction for the month of February as first the main floor and then the third floor are finished. There will be a lot of temporary fixes while this is going on - the reference staff will be working out of the New Books Room for example. It will be a little chaotic but luckily it's the slowest month of the year for the Library (except for passports, but those will be done in the New Books Room). Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from November, Smith seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by committee members.

Personnel: Eads made a motion to approve their minutes, Missey seconded and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous by the committee members in attendance.

Development: Missey reported the endowment fund is at a record high of \$2,214,622. The Library has received \$26,223 (193 donors) towards the annual appeal. Last year at this time we were at \$28,551 (214 donors) - so pretty close. Last year there were more donations over \$100 as lots of pavers were sold, this year there are more donations in the \$50 range.

Board Operations: No report.

Unfinished Business -

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Approve Policy Update – Van Herreweghe reviewed the changes to the policy which changes the language of the card policies to match with the new ILS (Evergreen) and updates the references to the MEC rather than just the MLC. Taylor made a motion to approve the policy change, Eads seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

New Business –

Sign Ethics Policy– Trustees signed copies of the ethics policy.

Approve Grant Request – Eads made a motion to approve the staff endowment grant request of \$4,000 for 3D Printers, Ward seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

A motion was made by Taylor and seconded by Eads 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, February 18th at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations.