

**KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 19, 2026**  
**Meeting Room, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson**

Board Attendance: Eads, McKee, Missey, Pitt Kaplan, Sandbothe Sylvia, Smith, Ward, Wolshock  
Board Absent: Taylor  
Staff Attendance: Christa Van Herreweghe, Rachel Johannigmeier  
Guests: Ben Clark, Deb Lavender

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Smith at 5:00 pm.

**Business from the audience:** Ben Clark thanked Smith for her service and recounted when she joined the board in 2020.

**Minutes:** Sandbothe Sylvia made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, Wolshock seconded and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

**Staff Endowment Request:** Johannigmeier requested \$13,500 to cover the costs of attending the ALA conference, to replace the BEAM system in the YS room and to add some Hot Reads for adults on the lower level for parents.

**Librarian's Report –** Van Herreweghe reported:

**State:** The budget passed cuts the money they give to public libraries in half. There was a bill that almost made it in the end to allow libraries to go out for a vote for a sales tax.

**MLC/MEC:** At our monthly meeting of the municipal library consortium, Patrick Wall, the director at UC announced he is retiring.

**KPL:** Thanks to all of you who made it to our One Author, One Kirkwood event. One of our employees discovered a set of our books for sale at Half Price books. We recovered them. In April we partnered with the City and other groups to have a great Arbor Day celebration out front and had the new street tree planted on the corner. Jamie and Kim in YS have wrapped up their grant specifically targeting “diverse minds” including a training session man counselor that specialized in treatment for people on the autism spectrum or with ADHD. People came from many area libraries. Summer reading kick off day rain made us be inside but the T-Rex was great inside, the Uke 66 band set the tone and we unveiled the 3 winning library card designs (adult, teen, kid) that are now available at the front desk.

**Grant news:** Successful tech ladder grant application - awarded almost \$9,000

**Incidents:** No new incidents

**Meetings:** Rotary scholarship committee service. Elaine and I went to a “Library Think Tank” event at STLCC. I met with the director of Jefferson County Library, and attended the Missouri Special Districts training

**Announcement –** Thanked Smith for her service on the board

**Trustees' Reports – none**

**President's Report –** Smith announced new board member Holly Talir will be taking her place but will be unable to attend the June meeting. Smith wished everyone well on this, her last meeting. Van Herreweghe presented her with a plaque for the New Books Room.

**Committee Reports –**

**Finance:** Eads reported the Library has received 93% of the revenue budget and spent 85% of the operations budget with six weeks left of the fiscal year. The budget for FY 2027 has been updated slightly from last month, with some line items increased to better reflect where they are currently. The Library sent out a request for proposals from audit firms and heard back from 4 companies, with two submitting bids. One was from FEW, our current auditor and the other from KEB, for double the amount. Eads asked anyone from the finance committee to let her know by tomorrow if they want to meet to discuss auditors, and if not, the library will go with FEW for audit services.

**Building and Grounds:** Van Herreweghe reported the building alarm inspections were conducted last month with no issues found. The landscaper finished updating the garden in time for summer reading kickoff. There are several projects waiting to be completed – the elevator repairs, the bench installation and the new pavers. The committee will do a walk-through in June.

**Personnel:** McKee made a motion to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to approve the committee minutes with committee members in attendance. Smith seconded and all in attendance were in favor. McKee motioned to approve committee minutes, Eads seconded and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous by the attending committee members.

**Development:** Van Herreweghe reported the Library has received \$34,168 towards the annual appeal so far this fiscal year as well as over \$38,000 in unrestricted donations. The engraver will be doing over 70 pavers, and orders for more have continued to come in. The endowment fund is currently at \$2,306,181.

**Board Operations:** Pitt Kaplan reported that the committee met to discuss new committee assignments.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Approve FY 27 Budget:** Ward made a motion to approve the FY 27 budget, Wolshock seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees.

**Approve Slate of Officers:** Smith made a motion to approve the slate of officers as follows:  
Pitt Kaplan – President  
Wolshock- Vice President  
Eads – Treasurer  
Miskey- Secretary

Kirkwood Public Library Board of Trustees  
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McKee seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

**Approve Policy Update:** Eads made a motion to approve the updated ILS policy, Wolshock seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

**New Business –**

**Approve Staff Endowment Request -** McKee made a motion to approve the staff endowment request of \$13,500, Taylor seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

**Adjourn:** Pitt Kaplan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm, Wolshock seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21 at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christa Van Herreweghe, Library Director