

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
September 16, 2026
Meeting Room, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson

Board Attendance: Eads, McKee, Missey, Pitt Kaplan, Talir, Taylor, Ward, Wolshock

Board Absent: Sandbothe Sylvia

Staff Attendance: Christa Van Herreweghe, Lisa Henry, Rachel Johannigmeier

Guests: Deb Lavender, City Council Liaison

Call to Order:

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

Business from the audience:

Lavender reported the council will be voting on the start of the legal process to provide abatement or not for the firm involved in the public works site, which would supersede the signed contract. Ward stated the trustees should provide a statement, Pitt Kaplan and Talir will work on it, staff should look at specific numbers as to how the abatement could affect the Library.

Minutes Talir voted to approve the minutes of July 15 with one change of removing Ward from present, Eads seconded, Wolshock and Ward abstained and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

Staff Presentation: Youth Services Manager Johannigmeier presented on Summer Reading and her ALA conference experience. After serving on the committee to pick the Newbery Award recipients she was able to attend the conference (using staff endowment grant funds) and hear the authors speak, as well as learn about the future of libraries. Summer Reading was once again successful, with 2603 children, 636 teens, 107 babies and 967 adults signed up. Wacky Wednesdays and Silly Saturdays happened at KPAC, with large crowds. Each age group saw an increase in minutes or pages read over last year.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

State: The Secretary of State initiated a bunch of press coverage threatening a public library who had an LGBTQ friendly story time that was well attended by local patrons. In the press conference, he admitted to not reading either of the picture books that were featured in the event. KPL hosted an event with the MO Special Districts Organization. Lawmakers who attended were surprised that some of us are 90%+ funded by property taxes.

MLC/MEC: MEC board election – Van Herreweghe won a three-year term starting on September 1 and knows this will be a fair amount of work and time but is confident that every improvement to the consortium will directly benefit KPL.

City of Kirkwood – Van Herreweghe got a request from the PD reporter to comment on the effect on the library if the city does the Chapter 100 tax financing on the proposed redevelopment project. Van Herreweghe attended the tax hearing and the following council meeting on Sept 3, (tax rates will be in to state by October first) then the Landmarks commission meeting on Sept 9 to

talk about our new doors and also went to the ribbon cutting for the new train station. Van Herreweghe will be working the Greentree festival beer booth for Rotary. The annual board and commission thank you event is being planned for October 28th, invites will go out soon.

KPL - Lynne Haynes won an award from Explore St. Louis for being a "hospitality hero" - someone who solves problems and creates memorable experiences. The MLC system administrator put together chart of registered patrons at each MLC library and the number of their checkouts, which shows KPL has the most.

Trustees' Reports –

President's Report – Pitt Kaplan asked trustees to discuss favorite books into movies. Pitt Kaplan was encouraged by Johannigmeier's presentation and was grateful for the summer reading program.

Committee Reports –

Finance: Eads reported the finance committee met with Keith and Leslie to go over the logistics of the audit. They are wrapping it up now and will have it done probably in a week or so. The audit will be sent to the board as soon as it is complete and the finance committee will meet with Keith and Leslie right before the board meeting in October. They will stick around for the board meeting and give a brief overview, and then the board will approve it in November.

Update on financials - two months into the new fiscal year and have received 2% of our expected revenue and have spent 15% of our expected operation expenses. Several line items are almost completely paid for in July, such as the MOREnet bill which pays our internet for the year and comes out of the telephone line item (453) and we pay for all of the magazine subscriptions at once so the subscription line item (510) is at 91%.

Finally, the endowment fund gained over \$66,000 this summer so it is at \$2,369,236. McKee made a motion to approve the finance committee minutes, Wolshock seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the members.

Building and Grounds: We are gearing up for a busy fall. The doors will be installed in November, the flagpole will be going up in October and we will be having various little projects around the building and outside completed over the next couple of months. There will be a little concrete work done on the crumbling concrete stairs that go from the Taylor parking lot to the emergency exit door, some touch up painting around the building, and some small repairs, particularly in the children's room. The exterminator will be here tomorrow for the fall spray, and the elevator passed its inspection last week.

The HVAC system needed some repair work but it has done well this summer and the building has stayed cool.

Personnel: None.

Development: None.

Board Operations: None.

Unfinished Business:

Approve 2027 Holidays – Taylor made a motion to approve the policy update to include the day after Thanksgiving, McKee seconded and the motion to approve was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

New Business –

Lodge Employee Leave Policy Revision – Van Herreweghe reviewed the policy changes, which will make time off increments the same for full and part timers. Taylor suggested several changes, and Van Herreweghe will update the revision for the next meeting.

. **Adjourn:** Eads made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm, Talir seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous by the trustees in attendance.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations