

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

September 20, 2023

Kirkwood Public Library Meeting Room, 140 E. Jefferson Ave.

Board Attendance: Clark, Harms, McLaughlin, McKee, Pitt Kaplan, Reyes-Jones, Smith, Wolshock

Board Absent: Price

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

Guests: Liz Gibbons, City Council Liaison

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Clark at 5:00 p.m.

Business from the audience –

Public Comments: Gibbons discussed the changes to the Kirkwood Road project and an upcoming program at the YMCA about lighting in Kirkwood.

Minutes: Reyes-Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of July 19, Smith seconded, and the vote to approve was passed by the remaining trustees in attendance.

Staff Presentation: Youth Services Manager Rachel Johannigmeier updated trustees on the success of this year's summer reading program. There was a total of 3,696 participants (2,588 kids, 100 babies, 441 teens and 792 adults). Wacky Wednesday programs included Babaloo, Wild Bird Sanctuary and Mad Science. Cooking classes were very popular and Kickoff Day was busy – the main craft was painting pots and they ran out of the 312 pots in 45 minutes. More than thirty teen volunteers participated in Reading Buddies, painting the mural on the outside fence and helping in other departments.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

- **National:** The Senate held a hearing on book banning.
- **State:** Ashcroft has pulled funding for ALA, which means there will not be grants available for librarians to participate in ALA events. Van Herreweghe reviewed the results of last year's public library survey and the property tax freeze legislation.
- **MLC:** The MLC voted to join Missouri Evergreen and are looking into an overlay, which will make it more clear in the catalog as to what is available.
- **Kirkwood City:** Van Herreweghe met with the chief administrative officer and attended the tax rate hearing. Tax rates have since been revised due to changes in assessment.
- **KPL:** Van Herreweghe and Jigisha Patel will be presenting at the Missouri Library Association conference. One Author One Kirkwood is coming up on October 12th and the library will be participating in Banned Book Week events. Ameren will be giving the Library two \$2,000 grants. Van Herreweghe has also met with the chair of the Kirkwood Arts Foundation and the Kirkwood Historical Society.

Trustees' Reports – None.

President's Report – Clark thanked Van Herreweghe for her work on Missouri Evergreen and for the number of grants attained by KPL.

Committee Reports –

Finance: McKee reported that two months into the fiscal year the Library has received 3% of anticipated revenue, with funding coming mainly from property taxes, passports, interest and grants. Seventeen percent of the expense budget has been spent, as we have made annual payments for internet service and magazine subscriptions. The endowment grant for the year is \$46,207 with \$19,167 left.

Building and Grounds: Reyes-Jones reported the committee met before the meeting and approved the proposal from Corrigan to install a new HVAC. The committee also reviewed the paver and lighting suggestions for the exterior project. The front lobby shelving has been repurposed to provide a space for donations.

Personnel: None.

Development: Smith reported the endowment fund is currently at \$1,578,910 and appeal donations continue to come in.

Board Operations: No report.

Unfinished Business –

None

New Business –

Lodge Meeting Room Policy: Van Herreweghe reviewed the changes to the policy now that the meeting room is back to just one room, simplifies the policy and follows the Secretary of State's rule.

Lodge Vacation/Time Off Scheduling Policy For All Staff: Van Herreweghe reviewed the policy changes, which remove procedures and simplifies without making radical changes.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by McKee to adjourn the regular board meeting at 5:42, which passed by unanimous vote of the Trustees.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18th at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations