

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
April 17, 2024
Kirkwood Public Library Meeting Room, 140 E. Jefferson Ave.

Board Attendance: Clark, Harms, McLaughlin, Pitt Kaplan, Price, Reyes-Jones, Smith, Wolshock
Board Absent: McKee
Staff Attendance: Christa Van Herreweghe, Lisa Henry
Guests: City Council Liaison Liz Gibbons

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Clark at 5:04 p.m.

Business from the audience –

Public Comments: Gibbons reported the swearing-in ceremony will take place at KPAC so more could attend. She will be visiting all the Kirkwood schools to let them know she's around. Clark presented her with a gift from the board in appreciation of her work as liaison and council member.

Minutes: Reyes-Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, Smith seconded, and the vote to approve was passed by the trustees in attendance.

Staff Presentations: None.

Librarian's Report – Van Herreweghe reported:

- **State:** Facebook is currently using AI to approve or block messages and unfortunately it sees the required grant language as "political speech" and blocks the library's posts. Christa and Lynne Haynes attended a training session for "Lifetime Arts" and Christa accepted a \$5,000 grant for programming aimed at seniors.
- **MLC:** Staff attended a cataloging meeting and MEC conference in preparation for the move to the MEC.
- **KPL:** The library's bandwidth has been upgraded to 200 Mb.
- **Grants:** Mel Lambert was awarded \$13,491 for a "spotlight on literacy" grant to host leadership training. A digitization grant for \$12,672 in partnership with KWHS was awarded on Monday and \$5,000 was awarded today for two "lifetime arts" programs.
- **Meetings:** Christa served on the Rotary scholarship committee and attended the St. Louis Regional Network tech expo, and Mel gave her second webinar on libraries helping small businesses.

Trustees' Reports – McLaughlin loved the new storywalk at the Y, and Price mentioned the letter in the WK Times.

President's Report – None.

Committee Reports –

Finance: The committee met earlier today and approved the budget for FY 2025. Currently 102% of the operations revenue budget has been received and 72% of the expense budget has been spent, with three months to go.

Building and Grounds: Reyes-Jones reported the third HVAC unit was installed so we are done with cranes. Multiple projects are being considered, such as converting the computer lab into office space and potentially making the corner office a public use space, as it was originally intended, updating the restrooms and some work in YS. The first payment for the now-approved exterior project has been made and Riggs is working on a schedule.

Personnel: Price reported she will be sending information about the evaluation of Van Herreweghe, and the closed session meeting will be canceled tonight and held next month instead. Pitt Kaplan made a motion to approve the committee's minutes, McLaughlin seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the committee.

Development: Smith reported the endowment fund is currently at \$1,719,362 and appeal donations continue to come in, currently \$47,140 has been raised, with \$16,277 going towards the pavers themselves.

Board Operations: McLaughlin made a motion to approve the committee minutes, Smith seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by the committee. McLaughlin reviewed the committees for the upcoming fiscal year:

Finance – McKee, Reyes-Jones, Wolshock
Building & Grounds – Reyes-Jones, Wolshock, Harms
Personnel – Price, Pitt Kaplan, McLaughlin
Development – Smith, Price

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

Lodge FY 25 Budget – Van Herreweghe reviewed the proposed budget, with very few changes from the previous year. The personnel committee has approved the personnel costs and the finance committee has reviewed and approved the full budget.

Lodge Slate of Officers – McLaughlin presented the following slate:

Smith, President
Pitt Kaplan, Vice President
McKee, Treasurer
Price, Secretary

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A motion was made by Price and seconded by Wolshock to adjourn the regular board meeting at 5:44 pm, which passed by unanimous vote of the Trustees in attendance.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15 at **5:00** pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Henry, Director of Operations