

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – December 19, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President  
Billie Howard Barnes  
Laura Dominik  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Jonathan Kemper  
Susan Kenney  
Michelle Smirnova  
Denesha Snell  
India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive  
Teresa Bolton, Director of Central Library Operations  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems  
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator  
and Project Specialist  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Community  
Engagement  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Angela Fencl, Director of Finance / Chief Financial Officer  
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Community Engagement and  
Outreach  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive  
Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer  
Karen Weitzel, Chief People Officer  
\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

The Board Calendar for calendar year 2024 was affirmed as presented. (LBM 4668) A calendar invite with the 2024 Board Meetings will be sent to all Trustees.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and the November 15, 2023, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4668)**

(Note: As a matter of Board convention, the Chair votes only when his/her vote would affect the outcome of the vote. In all "recorded" votes, the vote of the Chair appears only when it has actually been cast and when it has had an effect on the disposition of the motion. Notations of "approved unanimously" mean all members, other than the Chair, voting affirmatively.)

Oñate Greim arrived at 4:37 p.m.

Snell reported on the November 28 Building Oversight Committee Meeting. Browne noted that Siragusa will work on revisions to the draft Facilities Master Planning RFP and alternatives to the proposed fencing for the former Bluford Branch entrance on the corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Prospect Avenue. Snell requested the Committee meet quarterly during the current calendar year and that the schedule of meetings be shared as a calendar invite.

**Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.**

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4669), Siragusa noted two expenditures: payment to John A. Marshall for the five Study Pods and to the Kansas City Streetcar Authority for the 150<sup>th</sup> streetcar wrap.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4670), Siragusa provided a brief overview of the controversy surrounding the Jackson County reassessment process, noting that the State Attorney General and the State Tax Commission filed a lawsuit against Jackson County and Tyler Technologies, the company hired by the County to facilitate the process. Siragusa noted that the public is just learning about the report and lawsuit and she will provide updates to the Board at future meetings.

Howard Barnes and Williams arrived at 4:43 p.m.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously.** The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for November 2023: Payroll (11/2/23 net cash \$353,081 plus taxes \$124,095), (11/16/23 net cash \$355,252 plus taxes \$123,459), and (11/30/23 net cash \$365,234 plus taxes \$129,429) total amount of \$1,450,550; General Expense Payments including Checks (#12291-12558), in the amount of \$1,679,988. (LBM 4669)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for October 2023. (LBM 4670)**

Browne commended the Library Staff on a job well done for the Kansas City Public Library's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon and the evening events on December 5.

Discussing the Director's Report (LBM 4671), Perkins-McGuinness gave an update on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. She commended Christensen and the Philanthropy and Public Affairs teams for pulling together for a job well done on the events and announced that a grant was received by Royals Charities for \$25,000, bringing fundraising up to 88% of the goal.

Browne acknowledged Herron's last day with the library will be December 31<sup>st</sup> and thanked him on behalf of the Board for his leadership and services.

**Motion by Dominik to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously.**

The Board was in closed session from 4:56 p.m. until 6:22 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date