

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – September 21, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper, President  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Laura Dominik  
Pete Browne  
Billie Howard Barnes  
Susie Kenney  
Michelle Smirnova  
Denisha Snell

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive  
Jensen Adams, Energy and Sustainability Officer  
Jessica Addo, Administrative Officer  
Amanda Barnhart, North-East Branch Manager  
Janice Bolin, Director of Finance  
Amy Brost, Manager of Special Projects  
Marcus Brown, Kansas City Digital Media Lab Lead Facilitator  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems  
Kiesha Collins, Kansas City Digital Media Lab Youth Services  
Librarian  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and  
Community Engagement  
Kyriecce DeVine, Kansas City Digital Media Lab Facilitator  
Andrea Ellis, Director of Strategic Learning  
Kathleen Hinton, Finance Manager  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services  
Dawn Mackey, Technical Services Manager  
Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach & Community  
Engagement  
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive  
Services  
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy  
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Stoppello, Director of Library Collections  
Kaite Stover, Director of Reader's Services  
Karen Weitzel, Director of Human Resources

Kemper called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Kemper opened the public hearing for the 2021 property tax rate and the final 2021 – 2022 budget and asked for questions and comments. There was no response from the public, and Kemper closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2021 Regular Board meeting. Second by Howard Barnes. Approved unanimously.**

(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.)

**Motion by Browne to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Howard Barnes. 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 August 2021: Payroll (08/26/21 net cash \$272,395 plus taxes \$99,867) and (09/9/21 net cash \$270,240 plus taxes \$99,625) total amount of \$742,127; General Expense Payments including Checks (#6283-6464), in the amount of \$1,129,456. (LBM 4506)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for August 2021. (LBM 4507)**

Discussing the proposed ad valorem tax rate, Siragusa stated that Library staff recommended that the ad valorem tax rate for 2021 be set at 55.04 cents per assessed \$100 valuation.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to fix the Library's 2021 ad valorem tax rate at 55.04 cents per \$100 assessed valuation pursuant to the provisions of 67.110 RSMo. Second by Smirnova. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4508)**

Discussing the proposed final 2021-2022 Library Operating Budget, Siragusa noted that property taxes have increased \$615,575 from the preliminary estimate of June 2021 with proposed increases to salaries and fringe benefits, general operating, contracted services, and capital development.

**Motion by Browne to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt a final 2021-2022 Library Operating Budget General Fund of \$25,134,352, Capital Development Fund Budget of \$1,565,000 and approve changes in transfers as noted on the attached schedules. Second by Dominik. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4509)**

Snell arrived 4:55 p.m.

Herron introduced Andrea Ellis and stated that a one page summary of the Summer Reading and Learning Program would be sent to the Board following the meeting. Ellis reported that funding from the Hall Foundation and Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation allowed several

outside activities to take place at the Southeast branch. Kiesha Collins described the STEAM and artistic activities available over four days. Funding from the Missouri State Library underwrote teen activities, and Kyriecce DeVine described those activities including the Kansas City Digital Media Lab, resume help, and a gaming podcast. Marcus Brown reported on Digital Media Lab robotics activities.

Herron discussed an article that appeared in the *New Yorker* about ebooks. Jones described the costs of ebooks and circulation and how the digital content delivery model differs from physical materials. Jones introduced Deborah Stoppello to answer questions and provide further details.

Herron discussed the Director's Report with the Board. (LBM 4510)

**Motion by Dominik to adjourn. Second by Snell. Approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date