

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting –August 27, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President  
Reid Day  
Laura Dominik  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Jonathan Kemper  
Susan Kenney  
Michelle Smirnova  
Elizabeth Warwick  
India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, 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  
Trina Duncan, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer  
Cindy Hohl, Director of Policy Analysis and Operational Support  
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/COO  
\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

OTHERS PRESENT: Billie Howard Barnes  
Patrick Earhart  
Kieth McGovern  
Tom Platt

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Browne welcomed Abby Yellman as the Kansas City Public Library Chief Executive Officer.

Browne presented Billie Howard Barnes with a proclamation from the Board of Trustees outlining her contributions and thanking her for her 17 years of service as a Trustee for the Kansas City Public Library.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and**

**the July 16, 2024, Special Board Meeting, and the February 6, 2024, Executive Director Search Committee Meeting. Second by Williams. 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 for 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.)

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

**Motion by Dominik to consider items 4.1 and 4.2 separately.**

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4709), Yellman noted two items: the payment to SHI International Corporation for the annual computer refresh and a payment to Terracon Consultants, Inc. for the Facilities Assessment. She noted that all the buildings have been assessed and the consultants are working on the report.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4710), Yellman provided a brief overview of the Financial Statements. Yellman noted that the Library anticipates receiving updated assessment values from Jackson County in September, which will provide a better idea of where we are trending.

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

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Interim Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for July 2024: Payroll (07/11/24 net cash \$390,340 plus taxes \$132,560) and (07/25/24 net cash \$388,311 plus taxes \$134,008) total amount of \$1,045,219; General Expense Payments including Checks (#14244-14590), in the amount of \$2,631,155. (LBM 4709)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for July 2024. (LBM 4710)**

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Annual Reaffirmation of Code of Ethics policy. Second by Day. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4711)**

Discussing the Authorization to Contract with Tech Logic Corporation (LBM 4712), Yellman noted that by entering into a three-year contract, there will be a savings of approximately \$3,800 annually.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the Authorization to Contract with Tech Logic Corporation for a Three-Year Maintenance Agreement for Automated Materials Handling Equipment at the Library's Central, Plaza, and Outreach Locations. Second by Warwick. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4712)**

Siragusa introduced Earhart and McGovern of FORVIS, LLP who presented a summary of the audit results noting that FORVIS anticipates issuing a clean, unmodified opinion on the final financial statements.

Browne introduced Hohl, current President of the American Library Association (ALA), who gave a presentation on ALA and its resources. Highlights included:

- The mission of the ALA
- Services ALA provides to libraries and library Staff
- How ALA is organized with over 50,000 members in all U.S. states and territories organized

into eight Divisions and 20 Round Tables, along with 57 ALA Chapters and 28 Affiliates, which frequently represent individuals who are not part of ALA or ALA Chapters

- ALA’s membership structure

Discussing the Director’s Report (LBM 4713), Yellman shared current activity around the Library’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts, noting she is working with Duncan, Human Resources, and the rest of the Executive Team on next steps for DEI.

Yellman noted she is working to visit all locations and departments, staff, and learn about all the services being provided to our communities. She is setting up regular one-on-one and team meetings with the Executive Team.

She is starting to make connections externally, including joining Urban Libraries Council and a recent introductory phone call with State Librarian Robin Westfall. She is working on meetings with City staff, area library directors and other stakeholders.

She shared information about the conversation with the Kansas City Council over the low barrier shelter, acknowledging Library staff, especially Coogan, Jones, and Beth Hill, who put together a statement on how critical the low barrier shelter is for the Library to meet our mission of providing services for all in our communities. The Kansas City Council approved the shelter on August 15, 2024.

She will visit the Bluford Branch on Thursday and join staff in a community meeting with the Kansas City Police Department to discuss activities occurring at the corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Prospect. She is looking forward to learning more about the neighborhood, meeting some of the key stakeholders in the area, and discussing how to work together.

Yellman shared information about a letter received from the Jackson County Executive, Frank White about the Missouri Tax Commission order directing Jackson County to adjust their 2023 Property Assessment. There is not enough information available from the County at this point, but the Library is making some estimates of potential impacts and working to get some meetings with the Assessor and others who might be able to provide us with more information. The Library is rolled back and may be able to recoup some funding. Any new information received in the next few weeks will be incorporated in the revised FY 2024-2025 budget.

Under New Business, Browne presented Siragusa with a proclamation outlining her contributions and thanking her for her 18 years of service with the Kansas City Public Library.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date