

## MINUTES

### **Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting –September 17, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, September 17, 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  
Laura Dominik  
Jonathan Kemper  
Susan Kenney  
Elizabeth Warwick  
India Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Reid Day  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Michelle Smirnova

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive  
Anna Bernard, Media Relations and Communications Specialist  
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  
Misty Eytcheson, Public Affairs Director  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
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/COO  
Deborah Stoppello, Director of Library Collections  
Kaite Stover, Director of Reader's Services  
\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Platt

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

Browne turned the floor over to Yellman who opened the public hearing for the 2024 property tax rate and the final 2024-2025 budget and asked for questions and comments. There was no response from the public, and Browne closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024, Regular Board 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 4714), Yellman noted two items: the payment to Penguin Random House LLC, which is the first of two payments for the Tommy Orange speaker fee, and the payment to Victory Hyundai at Legends LLC for a new maintenance vehicle that replaces the old one.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4715), Yellman provided a brief overview of the Financial Statements, noting that the budget is performing as expected, with no concerns regarding revenue and expenditures.

**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 August 2024: Payroll (08/8/24 net cash \$386,075 plus taxes \$133,081) and (08/22/24 net cash \$396,429 plus taxes \$141,839) total amount of \$1,057,424; General Expense Payments including Checks (#14591-14857), in the amount of \$1,211,710. (LBM 4714)**

**Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for August 2024. (LBM 4715)**

Discussing the ad valorem tax rate (LBM 4716), Siragusa provided assessed valuation information noting that the Library is allowed to go back, up to three years, and recoup money that was not received from the prior years due to the levy rollback. The recommended tax rate of 0.5166 is the calculated base levy of 0.4914 plus the allowable recoupment rate of 0.0252.

Warwick arrived at 4:40 p.m.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to fix the Library's 2024 ad valorem tax rate at 51.66 cents per \$100 assessed valuation pursuant to the provisions of 67.110 RSMo. Second by Kemper. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4716)**

Discussing the Operating Budget (LBM 4717), Yellman shared that there could be property tax protests that may affect our collection rate. Siragusa noted that two funds were revised, the General Fund and the Capital Development Fund. She highlighted that the revenue is going up to \$1,400,000, with \$1,300,000 of that related to the recoupment levy and the remainder to projected growth in tax revenue. The Library is recommending \$1,000,000 of the increased one-time revenue from recoupment be transferred into the Capital Development Fund to prepare for building renovations. The remaining \$400,000 is allocated to Salaries, Contracted Services – Security, Employee Parking, and one-time funding for Library Materials and Capital Outlay.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt a final 2024-2025 Library Operating Budget General Fund of \$30,468,695 and approve changes as noted on the attached schedules. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4717)**

**Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt and approve the Organization Resolutions and Agreement submitted by UMB Bank and to authorize signatures of the Board’s President, the Board’s Secretary/Treasurer, and the Library’s Chief Executive for financial transactions. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4718)**

Coogan introduced Eytcheson who shared upcoming events and contests related to Banned Books Week.

Coogan introduced Bernard who gave a presentation on Media Relations. Highlights included:

- The Library’s media coverage from August 2023-July 2024 reached an audience of 952 million people through TV, radio, print, online news outlets, and social media.
- Media sharing the Library’s story mostly falls into three categories: major initiatives, branch programming and services, and signature events.
- Recent major media moments include the Library’s rebranding, the inaugural Heartland Book Festival, and the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library.

Discussing the Director’s Report (LBM 4719), Yellman noted the voter registration work of staff throughout the system and the behind the scenes work of YFE, Information Systems, and others to enable Kansas City Public School students to use their school lunch number to check out materials.

Yellman shared that there are many stakeholders engaging in community meetings to hear from the community and the residents of the Prospect Corridor to better understand what is happening, what the concerns look like, and what the recommended actions are. Yellman, Jones, and King met with the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) to talk about the Library’s perspective, staff concerns, and how to keep the Branches safe for the public and staff.

Yellman highlighted several upcoming RISE events: the celebration of RISE’s 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the North-East Branch, a Naturalization Ceremony on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Plaza Branch, and a Children’s Naturalization Ceremony in Helzberg on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Coogan shared that the Margaret Atwood event has been moved from Central Library to the Unity Temple at the Plaza, opening 800 additional seats. Consideration was given to ensure the event remained accessible by bus and other transportation modes.

Coogan shared that the *Kansas City Public Library* history book has been released. Staff member and co-author Jason Roe will be presenting about the book at the Missouri Library Association Annual Conference on September 25<sup>th</sup>, a presentation at Central Library on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and at the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date