

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Community
Engagement
Trina Duncan, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Qun Fang, Senior Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Shannon King, Public Safety Director
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy
Dawn Mackey, Discovery Services Manager
Brian Oleson, Assistant Manager of Public Safety
Amanda Quance, Manager of Special Projects
Deborah Stoppello, Director of Library Collections
* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

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

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024, Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws Meeting, the minutes of the December 11, 2024, Building Oversight Committee Meeting, and the minutes of the December 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting. Second by Day. 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.)

Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4739), Yellman noted expenditures were operational with nothing of significance to note and then asked the Board if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4740), Yellman noted that property tax revenue has begun to come in and a better understanding of the Library's property tax revenue will be available over the next couple of months.

Approved unanimously by the voting Board members, Oñate Greim recused herself from the vote for LBM 4740. 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 January 2025: Payroll (12/12/24 net cash \$378,941 plus taxes \$131,366) and (12/26/24 net cash \$396,471 plus taxes \$146,394) in the total amount of \$1,053,172; General Expense Payments including Checks (#15597-15790) in the amount of \$1,272,504. (LBM 4739)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for January 2025. (LBM 4740)

Discussing the Adoption of Proposed Revised Bylaws (LBM 4741), the proposed bylaws were presented to the Board in December and placed on the policy calendar for public comment with Board consideration of approval at the January 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Before the meeting, Dominik sent an executive summary of the proposed revisions to the Board for review.

Motion by Day to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the Adoption of Proposed Revised Bylaws. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4741)

Discussion related to the recommended authorization of the Operating Budget FY 2024-2025 to increase full-time equivalent positions from 241.5 to 246.5. Jones noted that prior presentations to the Board reviewed third-party security contracts for branch security. Despite consistent security at the Central Library provided by the Downtown Community Improvement District (DCID), third-party security providers have been inconsistent for branch security.

Jones explained the proposed in-house security approach would provide stability of security services for the branches through staffing that is hired as part of the overall Library team with ongoing support and training related to both security and the Library's mission and values.

Jones noted the proposal includes seven (7) full-time safety officers, five (5) new FTE and two (2) existing, vacant FTE positions that would be repurposed. Jones explained that the current security contract would continue through a hybrid model. While cost savings are anticipated, it was noted by Yellman that the cost of security continues to be a large operational cost for the Library.

Smirnova asked why the Library was not transitioning to in-house officers at all branch locations.

Jones explained that staff recommends a small-scale approach to start with gradual expansion, as recommended by other urban libraries. Williams asked if in-house security would be armed and both Jones and Oleson clarified they would not carry weapons and would wear “soft uniforms” to strike a balance between customer service and security.

Day asked about the relationship with the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) and their thoughts on this change. Jones explained that the relationship with the KCPD has improved, including a recent appreciation event that included Chief Graves, patrol majors, officers and firefighters with another event scheduled for April 11, 2025, at the North-East branch.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the Operating Budget FY 2024-2025, Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE’s). Second by Kenney. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4742)

Jones introduced Mackey, who gave a presentation on the Library’s Discovery Services within the Library Collections department. Mackey used the journey of a book as an example of the seven (7) steps of work completed by the Discovery Services team: identify, select, acquire (including the innovative Request It program), catalog, circulate, deselect, and recycle.

Discussing the Director’s Report (LBM 4743), Yellman presented the 2025 Organizational Priorities which include: organizational health, facility planning, and strategic planning. Yellman noted the initial high-level overview of the recently completed staff climate survey confirms the need to move forward with these priorities. Hrenchir, Chief People Officer, will provide an overview of the climate survey results to the Board as part of a regular Board meeting in February or March.

Also, the Strategic Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) is live, with a deadline of February 7, 2025. Yellman added that she will discuss with the Executive Team, to finalize the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Comprehensive Facilities Plan, which is set to be released in March. Yellman confirmed a recommendation for a consultant for each process that will be brought to the Board for consideration and approval at an upcoming regular Board meeting.

Yellman provided an update on the Chief Operating Officer (COO) position, noting a contract was executed with The Moran Company. Recruitment will be open until February 21, with semifinalist and finalist interviews scheduled for the first and second week of March, respectively.

Regarding the Executive Assistant position, most of the first and second round interviews have been conducted with final in-person interviews set for January 30.

Yellman shared that the monthly naturalization ceremonies recently moved from the Central Library to the Plaza Library due to security concerns raised by the United States Marshals Service. Staff will continue to work with the Marshals Service to identify if a plan could be put in place to bring the ceremonies back to the Central Library’s Kirk Hall in the future.

Browne noted the Director’s Report was available for the Board to review (LBM 4743).

There was no old business for discussion.

Discussing New Business, Kenney nominated the following slate of officers: Pete Browne, President, Claudia Oñate Greim, Vice President; Laura Dominik, Secretary / Treasurer.

Motion by Warwick to elect the slate of officers as presented by Kenney. Second by Smirnova. The motion to elect the slate of officers as nominated by Kenney was approved unanimously.

Browne mentioned that this year's Kansas City Black History publication was available with additional copies available at branch locations.

Motion by Dominik to adjourn. Second by Smirnova. Approved unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Secretary

Date