

**Brentwood Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 8, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM

President Ed Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Ed Wright (President), Kathy Ryan (Vice President) Lori Ashmore-Ruppel (Secretary), Jeanette Oesterly (Treasurer), Angela BoClair, Laura McAllister, Kelsey Burkemper, Beth Miller Erman, and Mary Stevens. A quorum was present. Gina Gibbons, Library Director was also present.

Today is National Library Workers Day, a part of National Library Week.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made to add an Executive Session to the agenda and accept the agenda as amended, by E. Wright and seconded by M. Stevens. All vote aye.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting by M. Stevens and seconded by B. Miller Erman. All vote aye.

READING OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no visitors at the meeting.

ALDERMANIC LIAISON'S REPORT

The library board wants to thank Brandon Wegge for his service as our Aldermanic Liaison. A new liaison will be appointed after today's election.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The recent funding cuts at the Institute of Museum and Library Services does affect some library grants. The library had two payments that will not be received. The first is a grant awarded for the summer reading club program (\$1600). With some program adjustments, the library's current budget will be able to cover the needed costs for the summer reading club. Secondly, there was a payment for the migration to the Missouri Evergreen last fall. The library was supposed to receive the costs of the library's portion of the bill (\$3,175) The payment for the former system was \$6,000 a year, so the new cost is significantly lower and can be paid by the current library budget.

The library delivery will be most affected. The library deliveries have doubled (to and from) since the Evergreen migration. The state library funds cover two days of delivery service a week for each MLC library. Those funds also offset some of the Missouri Evergreen costs each year. The library has no idea the delivery amounts if the state library does not receive IMLS funds. The library Evergreen delivery fees could increase as much as 60%. The state is

contemplating moving funds from the A&E (Athletes and Entertainers) and REAL (remote electronic access for libraries) funds to help pay the delivery costs.

The American Library Association (ALA) is suing the administration regarding these funding cuts.

HB903, which the Senate will consider tomorrow (April 9), seeks to cut personal property tax through a slow decline. This would seriously affect how the library would pay back the debt from the building project. It would also cut school and fire district funds. Patrick Wall, Library Director from the University City Library, will be driving to Jefferson City to testify. The library can make a fiscal impact statement about the bill.

People have approached people in the new library parking lot. Those renting the parking lot would like to add signs that say they are on security cameras. The library has added "No Trespassing" signs on the picnic tables. The police have also been contacted and made aware of the situation.

Sarah hosted two activities during spring break this year: crafting with Perler beads and macrame. Both events were well attended. The macrame was geared towards tweens and teens. She also hosted another successful Stuffed Animal Slumber Party that starts with story time.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the Design Process

The bids for contractors are due around May 1, and interviews of the top two or three candidates will happen May 5-7. A proposed contractor will be brought to the board for approval at the May 13th meeting. Building permits are in the process. A lot of furniture has been purchased from Benson Hill, which was closing down. The Benson Hill building was built in 2020, so much of the furniture is nearly new. The library will have a ground-breaking ceremony open to the public. The board is encouraged to consider what would be an idea around the groundbreaking event and other potential events leading up to the opening.

Community Relations Committee

K. Ryan met with Sarah to see what events need support, and will send out a list of events for board members to sign up to attend. The committee will visit the Kirkwood library to learn about their shelf sponsorship program. The goal is to have this opportunity in place in time for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Library Advocacy Committee

The board is encouraged to continue sharing ideas, content, and strategies about library advocacy. It is necessary to continue talking about it and encouraging people to think about it.

Strategic Planning Committee

The committee would like everyone to read the draft, which has been emailed, and make comments in the Google document. This will be discussed at the May and June board meetings.

Rebranding Committee

The committee met last week with Arcturis, did an activity to consider what the library would want, and reviewed preliminary options. A draft will be available from Arcturis in the first week of May, and the committee will review it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The library made some payments through the electronic system, which unfortunately does not talk to QuickBooks, and it stopped recording payments. The library checking account has over \$700,000. The investment account is \$2.8 million. The MOCAAT account is \$4.9 million. The library has approximately \$7.7 million for construction costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

The library will need to elect a new treasurer. E. Wright would like to stay on as president through the library's opening. J. Oesterly will serve as the nominating committee and contact the board members to inquire about positions. She will submit a slate of candidates at the May meeting.

The board needs to fill the open treasurer position. Any library board officer can sign the invoices as a second signature along with the library director. The library will also get a new board member after June. If the library board hears of any interest, contact the library director.

A motion to move into executive session was made by B. Miller Erman and seconded by K. Ryan at 7:18 p.m. A roll call all vote aye.

A motion to move out of executive session was made by B. Miller Erman and seconded by A. BoClair at 7:21 p.m. A roll call all vote aye.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will take place on May 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by L. Ashmore-Ruppel and seconded by K. Ryan at 7:23 p.m. All vote aye.