

Brentwood Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM

President Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Ed Wright (president), Kathy Ryan (vice president), Jeanette Oesterly (treasurer), Laura McAllister, Beth Miller Erman, Angela BoClair-Jones, Mary Stevens, Kelsey Burkemper. Lori Ashmore-Ruppel (secretary) and Brandon Wegge were absent. We have a quorum.

Ed Wright shared a quote from Jeannette Walls.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made to accept by Jeanette Oesterly and seconded by Kathy Ryan. All voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

One change to June minutes: add Mary Stevens to Roll Call. A motion was made to accept by Mary and seconded by Kathy Ryan. All voted aye.

July minutes: Angela BoClair-Jones made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Jeanette Oesterly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Horton of Kentland Drive was present.

President Wright said there was an inquiry from a patron who was upset by the gender-neutral signs on the restrooms in the library. The library removed the ones from a Metro Trans umbrella group and replaced them with other gender-neutral signs. President Wright responded to the patron.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Brandon Wegge was absent.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A kitten was found in the plantings outside by Nicole. It was adopted by a frequent patron.

A story about the new library was in the St. Louis Business Journal after a press release by Hilliker Corp.

Summer Reading Club is over. It was another good year with more participants than last year.

The library is changing over to Missouri Evergreen library system. The library will be unable to use their system for three days during the migration. The change will save money will allow the library to join with 70 other libraries in the state, so the catalog will be larger. The state library is paying for the transition. Missouri Evergreen is an open-source system.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Update on design process:

President Wright said it has been a busy summer with bi-monthly meetings with Navigate and Arcturis to go over the designs and cost estimates. The group will meet again Sept. 12 to make further decisions. They are trying to reflect the board discussions as well as public input to present a great library. Because of great leadership in the library, by the treasurer and the board, we have a good reserve fund. There were some unexpected expenses with core testing, HVAC and roof. The October Board meeting will be at Navigate, where we will meet with Navigate representatives for more details.

Kelsey Burkemper asked about sustainability initiatives that are being considered in the building design. Jeanette Oesterly said the new roof, which needs to be replaced, is insulated to be more sustainable, and the EV chargers will be installed by opening. We are hoping to get a grant to pay for the chargers. President Wright said sustainability is one of the major goals in the overall design, and they will incorporate as many sustainable initiatives as possible. Director Gibbons said they may do a study looking at piers in the original building before adding new piers. She said we may need to use more of the library's reserve funds to cover some of the costs.

Laura McAlister asked if it was worth it to offer patrons an opportunity to be a part of the new library, such as naming a brick or building the pergola. Laura will pursue ideas.

Kelsey Burkemper asked about the variants that will be needed from Planning & Zoning or the Board of Aldermen.

### 2. Community Relations Committee

Kathy Ryan said there was a lot of participation from the board and a lot of activities and lot of positive feedback from the community. Changes in the volunteer schedule: need volunteers on Sept. 21 at Brentwood Days from 5-6 p.m. Kathy and Gina are coming up with a craft idea that children won't have to carry on rides, maybe a button or magnet with existing supplies. Saturday, Oct. 5 garage sale – there are some antique toys in the library storage that we can sell. Open House with Fire Department is the same day.

National Night Out is October 22. The city is doing one at Brentwood Park. We will offer to host it in the new building lot in 2025.

### 3. Library Advocacy Committee

Legislature is not in session. There are many issues about libraries being discussed.

Beth Miller Erman said Ray Reed, who is running for Missouri's 2<sup>nd</sup> district, asked about library initiatives and may visit a board meeting.

4. Strategic Planning Committee

Beth and Laura will send a Doodle Poll with 4-5 dates and times and consider a location with food options for a fall retreat.

5. Collection of taxes

We would like to collect our own taxes instead of having the City collect the taxes and distribute them. We will hold a hearing, and the city will hold a hearing about tax collections so that we can collect them. The City needs to change the lease agreement to change the tax collection part. The second reading is on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Forms need to be turned in by the 1<sup>st</sup>. Gina is concerned the turnaround won't happen. Our tax hearing is Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Gina will determine how many board members are needed to be present at the hearing. Jeanette said the goal is to get it done so we can do our own taxes this year.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Oesterly said we've earned \$51,000 in interest in investments in 2024 so far. She proposes taking \$600,000 from the checking account and moving it into investments to take advantage of higher long-term interest rates. We have almost \$1.3 in investments as of 8/31/24. She suggests taking some of the money that starts coming in January and investing it. Money from the COPS bonds goes into the bank as a trustee, and the bank pays the contractors.

Motion made to take \$600,000 from checking into investments made by B. Miller Erman, seconded by Kelsey Burkemper. All voted aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Lease with Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) for parking. They had an agreement with the building across the street but that expired. Residents are complaining about parking on the residential streets. Lease negotiations call for a month-to-month agreement for \$50 per vehicle/month for 20 spaces = \$1,000/month for VEG employee parking. Gina will make sure the parking lot is lit after dark. We will give 30-days' notice before they have to vacate.

Jeanette Oesterly moved to accept the lease as written. Angela BoClair-Jones seconded. Roll call was taken. All voted aye.

Next meeting is for Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Navigate Building Solutions.

Motion made to adjourn by Jeanette, seconded by Laura. All voted aye.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Miller Erman