

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library

Present: Carol Wang, President
Caitlin Davis, Secretary
Adrian Suarez-Delgado
Ervin Portis
Jesse Sullivan

Absent: Lenora Isom, Vice President
Mike Kennedy
Beverly Thompson
Kathleen McCallister

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Millard Branch Library, 13214 Westwood Ln, Omaha, Nebraska. The Library certifies publication notice of the meeting in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on May 10, 2017.

Wang called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Roll was taken.

Consent Agenda

MOTION by Suarez, seconded by Davis, to approve the item in the Consent Agenda. Yeas: Davis, Suarez, Wang. Abstain: Portis, Sullivan. Nays: None. Motion failed 3-0.

Presentation

Facilities Master Plan. Bill Wilson of Himmel & Wilson presented the data he has gathered about Omaha Public Library. Wilson presented multiple maps of library use statistics in Omaha, some branches such as Millard and Bess Johnson Elkhorn serve extremely large areas and are seeing over use.

He also presented data showing that W. Clarke Swanson Branch serves a primarily senior population while South Omaha Library serves a large youth population. He also pointed out that eBooks saw a large spike in the past few years, but usage has since plateaued. Therefore print materials will still be around for many years to come.

Wilson then went on to discuss the facilities themselves. Overall Omaha Public Library's facilities are well maintained, but are beginning to show their age. The more pressing factor is the service area size compared to the population. Wilson stated that a common use is .72 sq. ft. per capita. Overall, Omaha Public Library has .62 sq. ft. per capita, with several branches, most notably Millard and Bess Johnson Elkhorn, being far smaller. As Omaha and Douglas County continue to grow, this number will only decrease.

Wilson opened a discussion about a Transactional vs. Transformational Library. Transactional Libraries focus on checking out physical materials. Transformational Libraries focus more on being a community space for people, providing unique services.

Going forward the Trustees need to think about what they want the library to be in the next 10 years. The Trustees will have a special meeting on June 7, and Wilson will present the final Facilities Master Plan update at the regular meeting on June 21.

Resolution

Security Camera Policy. Portis requested to layover the security camera policy until a future meeting. Staff input is still being collected.

Reports

Friends of the Library Hosier referred to her report.

Omaha Public Library Foundation Townley referred to her report. The Foundation is participating in Omaha Gives next week.

Library Director Report Marlane referred to her report. Marlane presented the libraries 2018 budget request. The request is \$1 million over the Mayor's target. The Mayor has asked each department to request what they need and not try to stay within her target. The largest additions to the budget are charge backs from City Faculties and the addition of security at all library locations. It also includes the addition of a Librarian III, a position that has been vacant for many years. Marlane will meet with the Mayor and City Council to discuss the budget in the coming months.

Presidents Report Wang reported that Isom has moved out of Omaha and resigned from the board. Wang thanked Isom for her service.

Library Liaison Reports None.

Public Input, Comments and Questions. Edgar Hicks addressed the board. Union Pacific is sponsoring a stamp show around the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Hicks has approached the schools about creating lesson plans around this event and hoped that the library could help support it.

Karen Hosier addressed the board and thanked them for the zoo passes. The zoo is a great resource to Omaha, but not everyone can afford to attend. Both Marlane and Council Bluff's Public Library director Kathy Reger are from the east coast where these programs are common. They hope to expand this program in the future.

MOTION by Portis, seconded by Davis, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library at 6:25 p.m. Yeas: Davis, Portis, Suarez, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Kyle Porter, Recording Secretary

Caitlin Davis, Secretary