

June 21, 2017

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library

Present: Carol Wang, President
Mike Kennedy
Ervin Portis
Adrian Suarez-Delgado
Jesse Sullivan
Beverly Thompson

Absent: Caitlin Davis

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at the Saddlebrook Branch Library, 14850 Laurel Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska. The Library certifies publication notice of the meeting in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on June 10, 2017.

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

Consent Agenda

MOTION by Kennedy, seconded by Sullivan to approve the items in the Consent Agenda. Yeas: Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0

Presentation

Facilities Master Plan. Bill Wilson of Himmel and Wilson presented his report on the Omaha Public Library system. He showed the growth of Omaha and the County and how it has outpaced census estimates and the growth has been primarily in the western parts of the city and county.

He reviewed the square footage per capita standard as .75 square foot per capita as a lens to look at the library needs for space. His projections are that if no new space is added, OPL will fall below .49 square foot per capita by 2030. There is some underutilized space in the OPL system with the Main branch and the Swanson branch cited for having space not useful for public library space.

Himmel and Wilson mapped out library locations based on a six minute drive time and located ten branches in ideal places. He also noted there is need to consider transportation barriers that exist in communities and the need for more urban branches because of socioeconomic issues and because of population concentration. This outcome is not recommended because the costs would be unrealistic.

Wilson identified the underserved and unserved residents and the priority gaps to be addressed. The number one recommendation is to build a new southwest library in the area of 180th and Q—a 40,000 square foot branch. He said there needs to be pressure taken off Millard Library and the library would ideally serve 60-70,000 people.

The second priority recommended is the replacement of the Willa Cather branch and to move it west to 63rd and Center to address service gaps in the west of the current branch. It would be approximately 35,000 square feet.

The third recommendation is to address the Elkhorn branch. The current branch is not built to civic architecture standards and so has some features that are not conducive for library space. Because of that, he recommends a new 25,000 square foot library to replace it, in the same location with the model to expand it in the future.

Recommendation 4 is two part project to replace main library with a downtown branch and creation of a central library in place of Swanson. The two libraries would have to be done at the same time so that there would be a place to absorb the administrative offices and special collections. The new main library would need to be 140,000 square feet. The downtown branch could be a 40,000 square foot facility to serve residents and to be creative about how it serves the daytime work population. This would be a good place to incorporate elements for entrepreneurial services and Do Space elements.

One of the key issues for the OPL to tackle is technology and broadband access. It is poor and a barrier for infrastructure and usage.

5th recommendation: Fort and 156th would be a good area to consider moving Saddlebrook Library to better serve the neighborhood and surrounding areas.

A sixth recommendation that he wanted to point out is a service gap between Florence, Washington and Abrahams library. There is a population there that needs to be considered. They may not need a library, but maybe could use a creative sharing space.

A 7th recommendation is to consider Ralston in the long-term planning because that is an area that is not addressed in the report.

Resolution

Security Camera Policy. Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sullivan to adopt the policy with the suggestions of the staff incorporated. Yays: Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Thompson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

Friends of the Omaha Public Library referred to report submitted.

Omaha Public Library Foundation Townley referred to her report. Sponsorships of \$40,000 have been raised for the Hope Jahrens event this fall.

Director's Report Rachel Steiner referred to Marlane's report.

President's Report Wang reported that officers needed to be elected at this meeting. A slate of Wang for President, Portis for Vice-President and Davis for Secretary-Treasurer was presented. **MOTION** by Kennedy, seconded by Thompson to accept the slate. Yays: Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Thompson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0

Library Liaison Reports It is Thompson's last meeting as a Trustee. She thanked the other trustees for their service and the community for its support. She plans to take some time off but will continue to support the library as a citizen. The Trustees thanked her for her work for the Library.

Public Input, Comments and Questions None.

MOTION by Sullivan, seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library at 6:37 p.m. Yeas: Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Thompson, Wang. Nays: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Caitlin Davis, Secretary