

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, December 20th, 2017 - 5:00 P.M.
Benson Branch, 6015 Binney St

Present: Carol Wang, President
Ervin Portis, Vice President
Caitlin Davis, Secretary-Treasurer
Cecelia Creighton
Michele Frost
Mike Kennedy
Keith Lutz
Jesse Sullivan
Laura Marlane, Director of Omaha Public Library (non-voting)

Absent: Adrian Suarez-Delgado

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at the Benson Branch, 6051 Binney St, Omaha, NE. This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, a copy of which is posted in the room. The Library certifies publication notice of the meeting in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on December 14, 2017.

President Wang called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M. President Wang welcomed Cecelia Creighton, new approved member for the Board of Trustees. Creighton is the Executive Director of YouTurn, a non-profit, anti-violence organization working with at-risk-youth and young adults ages 12-24 in Omaha, NE.

Branch Manager Report

Benson Branch Manager, Karen Pietsch welcomed everyone to the branch and briefly discussed its history.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Frost, seconded by Davis, to approve the November 15, 2017 minutes of the OPL Board of Trustees meeting.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None
Motion passed: 8-0

Resolutions

Approval of Library Director job description

Motion by Portis, seconded by Frost, to approve the job description of the Library Director.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None

Motion passed: 8-0

Fines free for children and youth cards

Discussion of the 2018 Youth Fine Policy Recommendation including the Read Off Your Fines Policy, All Clear Policy, and Food for Fines. Megan Klein-Hewett clarified that Fines Free for Youth would solely waive the late fees that accrue at \$.25/day. The All Clear would help waive fees *and* fines, fines being lost/damaged materials. Julie Humphrey and Megan Klein-Hewett worked together to coordinate the program during specific times of the year, such as during the Summer Reading Program, National Library Week, Banned Books Week, and others, in order to make the administration of the policies more constructive. Hours can also be logged online with a summary or review. OPL is still working through some of the finer details, in terms of what patrons will do in between the times they read or volunteer to lower their fees/fines. During the Food for Fines event this year, over 5,000 lbs of food was donated and brought 1,000 patrons back to the library to clear up old debts and use the library again. According to Laura Marlane, OPL Director, literature shows how fines have not served their purpose of getting people to return things on time and that the libraries without fines for youth have materials checked out longer, but have more materials turned back in.

Motion by Portis, seconded by Davis, to refer the 2018 Youth Fine Policy Recommendation to the Policy Committee to discuss at a later date.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Lutz, Portis. Nays: Frost, Kennedy, Sullivan, Wang

Motion failed: 4-4

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Davis, to amend the 2018 Youth Fine Policy Recommendation. Kennedy proposed the policy to state that patrons 15 years of age and younger can participate in Read Off Your Fines, instead of "youth ages birth to 18" as proposed in the 2018 Youth Fine Policy Recommendation. Ages 16 and older would still have the options of volunteering and/or donating food to lower their fines/fees.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None

Motion passed: 8-0

Motion by Frost, seconded by Sullivan, to approve the Amended 2018 Youth Fine Policy Recommendation. Motion includes original policy with amended change that patrons aged 0 through 15 can read off late fines on their Omaha Public Library cards during specific periods throughout the year.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: Portis

Motion passed: 7-1

Meeting room policy

No motion taken, meeting room policy stands as is.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee (Erwin Portis)- nothing to report.

Finance Committee (Adrian Suarez- Delgado, Erwin Portis, and Jesse Sullivan)- nothing to report.

Facilities Committee (Michael Kennedy- Chair, Caitlin Davis, Keith Lutz)- Kennedy reported that the committee had a meeting the previous Sunday to discuss steps to move forward with the 2020 facilities plan. The committee plans on giving proposal at the January Board Meeting. The committee is planning on meeting with the Mayor's Office at the end of January.

Community Engagement Committee (Carol Wang-Chair, Michele Frost)- nothing to report.

Reports

Friends of the Library Karen Hosier- not present, no report.

Omaha Public Library Foundation Wendy Townley reported that the Year End Appeal passed with \$60,000. Wendy will report final number at January meeting. Budget for next year was approved.

Library Director's Report Laura Marlane reported that OPL upgraded their broadband internet. All the branches, except for main, have been transferred over to the new server. The Main Library should be transferred by February. Once Main is completed all the branches' internet will bump up to 500MBs. DotComm promised the same rate for service as last year, which is about \$33,000/year. By the end of next year OPL hopes to upgrade all security cameras to the same server to have all the software under one entity, leading to a better and safer facility. The Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo had agreed to renew their partnership with OPL for another year. Instead of having one day a year to pick up a free zoo pass, the zoo changed the distribution to quarterly.

President's Report Carol Wang- nothing to report.

Library Liaison Reports Library Trustees- nothing to report.

Public Input, Comments, and Questions

None.

Executive Session

Discussion of Library Director Raise

Motion by Kennedy to go to executive session at 6:03 P.M. Seconded by Sullivan.
Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None
Motion passed: 8-0

Motion by Kennedy to return to meeting at 6:10 P.M. Seconded by Davis.
Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None
Motion passed: 8-0

Adjourn

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Portis, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Omaha Public Library.

Yeas: Creighton, Davis, Frost, Kennedy, Lutz, Portis, Sullivan, Wang. Nays: None
Motion passed: 8-0
Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Samantha Gentry, Recording Secretary

Caitlin Davis, Secretary