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**OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES**



Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Florence Branch Library – 2920 Bondesson Street

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the Florence Branch Library, 2920 Bondesson Street (Omaha). President Wang called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary, took the Roll Call:

**PRESENT:** Cecelia Creighton  
Mike Kennedy  
Ervin Portis, Vice President  
Adrian Suarez-Delgado  
Jesse Sullivan  
Carol Wang, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**ABSENT:** Caitlin Davis, Secretary-Treasurer  
Michele Frost  
Keith Lutz

**CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETING ACT**

President Wang stated that the meeting is held in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is posted in the room. The Library certified publication of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on February 14, 2018.

President Wang welcomed Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary, to the meeting. Ms. Garcia is Laura Marlane's new Assistant, as well as the liaison for the Board of Trustees.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Wang stated that any person who has been invited to speak or has requested the opportunity to speak before the Trustees is requested to be brief and to limit his or her comments to five minutes or less, after identifying themselves by name and address for public record. When more than one person wishes to address the Trustees on a Resolution or Consent Agenda item, the proponents will be invited to speak first, followed by the opponents. Each side will be given a maximum of twenty minutes. The proponents will be given a brief period for rebuttal of any new information presented during the opponent's presentation, after which public comments will be concluded. Trustees will ask any questions at the conclusion of any public comments, prior to voting. Any Trustee may remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be addressed by the Board immediately following. Public comment and Board approval is today.

3. **[Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2017](#)**

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 3.

No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

**MOTION by Sullivan, SECOND by Suarez-Delgado, that Agenda Item 3 (Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2017) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Creighton, Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

4. **[Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase \(Resolution\)](#)**

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 4.

No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

Kennedy asked if this new salary matched what the Mayor and City Council approved. President Wang said that this new salary is indeed what is in the Budget.

**MOTION by Portis, SECOND by Sullivan, that Agenda Item 4 (Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Creighton, Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

**RESOLUTION**

5. **[Approval of 2017 Facilities Master Plan](#)**

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 5.

No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

President Wang asked if Laura Marlane wished to speak about this item. Ms. Marlane stated that as everyone has worked on it, it has really flushed out the projects and given them a timeline that is manageable moving forward.

President Wang stated the Plan was built as a living document that could be adjusted as things happened and as funding potentials opened. The Plan is a moving target of their vision.

Kennedy stated that he thinks this is very exciting to be moving forward. He stated that the Plan is showing a 20-25 year vision of where the Board is going with the Library system, a Plan that is inclusive to all of the communities. This Plan is giving the Board a direction to go. Kennedy stated that he feels that this Plan has given the Board a lot of opportunities for the future. He thanked the community and Ms. Marlane for their work. Kennedy is very excited for the City of Omaha.

Portis added that this Plan is consistent to the consultant's recommendations and is validated by the public's input.

Sullivan stated that the Plan is very well written.

**MOTION by Portis, SECOND by Suarez-Delgado, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of 2017 Facilities Master Plan) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Creighton, Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 6. **Finance Committee** (Suarez-Delgado [Chair], Portis, Sullivan)

Suarez-Delgado stated that the Finance Committee had just met prior to the Board Meeting. The Committee is working on how best to come about and use the funds, as well as what all is needed to start a new Southwest Branch. He stated that everyone is also looking at how a new branch will help benefit other branches, and also how a new branch will affect other things, such as staffing. The Committee will be meeting again to discuss more items as more information is gathered. Great progress is being made.

### 7. **Facilities Committee** (Kennedy [Chair], Davis, Lutz)

Kennedy stated that there is a lot going on right now. The Committee had a meeting over a month ago, and they had been waiting for the Facilities Master Plan to be completed and approved. There has been a lot occurring with potential sites. There are currently two entities that are offering land that is available in the Coventry property (approximately 204th and Q Streets). One entity is a private developer, while the other is the Millard Public School District. The School District has reached out to Ms. Marlane and Metropolitan Community College regarding the site. Some different possibilities will be brought up to the Board at a later time, as the Library has a lot of collaborative partnerships throughout the community. There may also be an option for a site related to the Omaha Public School District. While these sites are being reviewed, there are also other places to look at. Kennedy stated that he plans on calling for a meeting of the Committee soon, and plans on inviting Ms. Marlane and President Wang. Ms. Marlane stated that the money in the CIP becomes available in 2020, so everyone needs to be ready to begin the construction of the Project by 2020. Kennedy stated that with the Plan completed now and so many other things coming up, everyone needs to be ready to jump on any potential opportunities.

A member of the public (UNKNOWN) spoke and asked what the breakdown of public versus private money is for funding of the new site(s). President Wang stated that the Mayor has put aside \$35 million in Capital Improvement funding to build two new branches. This money is the starting point. UNKNOWN asked if philanthropic money will be used as well. President Wang replied that philanthropic money will also be used. As discussed in the Finance Committee, CIP money has to be used in a certain way (for example, books cannot be purchased with CIP money), so capital campaigns will be used to fund various things (such as having books on all of the shelves on opening day). UNKNOWN asked if philanthropy will wait until the numbers show that it is needed or will it begin ahead of time. President Wang asked Wendy Townley if she would speak regarding the inquiry. Then President Wang and Ms. Townley respectfully asked UNKNOWN if the conversation could be continued during the Public Input, Comments, and Questions portion of the meeting.

### 8. **Community Engagement Committee** (Wang [Chair], Creighton, Frost)

President Wang stated that she needed to speak with Creighton because President Wang received an evaluative tool from the City of Omaha for the Library Executive Director evaluation.

President Wang stated that now that the Facilities Master Plan is completed and approved, herself and Ms. Marlane will be meeting with City and County officials to make contacts and present their vision to the various entities. They will also be meeting with various businesses and philanthropic organizations to make sure that everyone hears what the vision is and what this project will look like in its perfect state.

## **REPORTS**

### 9. **Branch Report** – Micki Dietrich (Branch Manager, Florence Branch Library)

Micki Dietrich welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the Florence Branch Library. Ms. Dietrich gave a brief history of the Branch and offered anyone interested a tour of the facility.

### 10. **Friends of Omaha Public Library** – Jeanne Spence (President)

Jeanne Spence appeared and gave an update of the Friends. Ms. Spence stated that the Friends sold just over 5,000 books in January at the book sales, which amounted to just over \$5,000.00. Over 200 items were sold on the Internet, which amounted to just over \$6,000.00. Ms. Spence stated that there were 42 volunteers that helped the Friends in January, amounting to over 600 hours of volunteer time.

Ms. Spence stated that the Friends no longer have a Secretary, and they are in need of Board members as well. She invited anyone interested to attend their next meeting on March 6, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swanson Branch Library.

Sullivan asked Ms. Spence how the Friends' Annual Meeting was in January. Ms. Spence said it was great and was held at the CEC building on the campus of UNO.

### 11. **Omaha Public Library Foundation** – Wendy Townley (Executive Director)

Wendy Townley appeared and gave an update of the Foundation. She stated that the Report distributed to everyone gives an overview of what the Foundation has been working on. Ms. Townley stated that the Foundation meets with Ms. Marlane and her key staff late in the year to review their requests, which are then added into the Foundation's operating budget. The Foundation's Board then votes to approve the operating budget, which just occurred at the January meeting. Ms. Townley stated that things are going well with the standard fundraising. She fields a lot of questions from donors regarding a new Branch and public versus private dollars. Now that the Facilities Master Plan was approved by the Board, Ms. Townley can answer donors' questions with even more information.

### 12. **Director's Report** – Laura Marlane (Executive Director)

Ms. Marlane stated that the RFID tagging began on February 12, 2018 at the Millard Branch Library. Over 700,000 items will need to be tagged. She had not heard of any problems or complaints as of now.

Network upgrades are proceeding. All networks at all locations should be at or about 500 Mbps. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. Work is expected to be finished by May 4, 2018. The Library will become connected to Network Nebraska in July, so there is hope that the connections/speeds will become even higher.

The Omaha Connects – Stronger Together symposium is being held in Omaha in May.

The security contract went out to bid recently, and Ms. Marlane stated that all are waiting for the bids to get resolved. The Mayor also increased the security guard budget for 2018, so security guards can be added to two additional branches.

13. **Board President's Report** – Carol Wang (President)

President Wang stated that she had nothing to report.

14. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Creighton stated that she thinks that the Washington Branch Library is doing great work and doing a lot of exciting things. She said how impressive it is when she goes by the Branch and sees so many young people inside. The Washington Branch Library continually has opportunities for the community to be involved with. Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations, stated that their circulation was up over 13% last year.

**PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS**

President Wang stated that any member of the public may address the Board on a topic of relevance to the Omaha Public Library, after identifying themselves by name and address for public record. Trustees may engage in questions and discussion of any topic presented, but any desired action will be placed on a future agenda.

15. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

Barbara Sudds, 4810 Grebe Street, appeared and spoke. Ms. Sudds asked the Board about the plans for the Downtown Library. She stated that she believes the current location of the Downtown Library is an ideal location that should be kept since there will be a lot of Riverfront development happening in the future. President Wang answered that the Facilities Master Plan shows that the Downtown will have a smaller branch library. The consultants used for the Facilities Master Plan stated how the current Downtown Library is not designed in a way that works for technological upgrades. There are major infrastructure problems with the existing building.

Kennedy assured Ms. Sudds that the Board, the Mayor, and the City Council will scrutinize every dollar. According to the Facilities Plan, the Downtown would be better served with a branch-sized library. Administration Offices and a central branch would be moved to a midtown area, like the Crossroads property up to the 90th Street and West Dodge Road area. Kennedy stated that he appreciated Ms. Sudds participation, and encouraged her to continue attending public meetings and voicing her input.

Suarez-Delgado stated that they have been looking at the Library and the buildings as tools needed to serve the community. The buildings were built at a time when technology and use were very different from today. For the Library to go where it needs to go to serve the population, it is no longer feasible to use the current buildings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

16. The Board may recess and go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, personnel issues, and/or any other matter allowed by law.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Suarez-Delgado, SECOND by Sullivan, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Creighton, Kennedy, Portis, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:37 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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Acting Secretary