

---

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

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.  
South Omaha Library – 2808 Q Street



**CALL TO ORDER**

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the South Omaha Library, 2808 Q Street (Omaha). President Wang called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Caitlin Davis, Secretary-Treasurer  
Michele Frost  
Keith Lutz  
Adrian Suarez-Delgado  
Jesse Sullivan

President Wang stated that there were not enough Board members present for a quorum; therefore, no motions or voting will be occur until a quorum is recognized.

Meeting convened with Reports only.

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

President Wang state 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 March 14, 2018.

**BRANCH REPORT**

3. [South Omaha Library](#) – Marvel Maring (Branch Manager)

Marvel Maring welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the South Omaha Library. Ms. Maring gave a brief overview of the Branch and highlighted the recent work completed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

4. [Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2018](#)

Due to the lack of a quorum, this item will be taken up at the next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

**RESOLUTIONS**

5. [Approval of Addendum to Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Douglas County](#)

Due to the lack of a quorum (and urgency), this item will be taken up at a Special Meeting (date/time to be determined).

6. **Approval to grant Executive Director authority to negotiate agreement on property for southwest branch**

**Due to the lack of a quorum, this item will be taken up at the next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Portis stated that he had nothing to report. The Finance Committee has met twice now to discuss the numbers for opening up a new facility.

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

Kennedy stated that the Facilities Committee met a couple of weeks prior at the Keith Lutz Horizon High School to look at the possibility of building on the site. A site plan was put together by Millard Public Schools, and Dr. Suftin of Millard Public Schools presented a slide show of some of the advantages of co-locating on the property. Kennedy stated that Millard Public Schools is willing to extend a 50 year lease to Omaha Public Library as long as they were able to have access to OPL's classrooms.

The Committee has not finalized a location for the new branch; thus, the Committee has put forth a Resolution asking that the Board give Ms. Marlane the authority to negotiate any agreement on property for the southwest branch.

Portis asked if a traffic study has been done for the property, and also asked if the potential property is within the City of Omaha city limits.

President Wang asked Michelle Peters, City of Omaha Law Department, whether or not the Board had to approve a Resolution for Ms. Marlane to participate in negotiations. Ms. Peters stated that State Statutes indicate that the Board is authorized to purchase and lease land. This Resolution would be granting the authority to Ms. Marlane to negotiate. Ms. Peters continued that this Resolution would not hurt anything, as there is a fine line between negotiating and discussing.

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

President Wang stated that herself and Ms. Marlane spoke to the County Commissioners the day prior to present the Master Facilities Plan and open up the lines of communication. They stated that the Commissioners were very receptive to their message and they have asked Ms. Marlane to appear before themselves annually to keep them abreast on the library. Ms. Marlane stated that she was also invited to Commissioner Cavanaugh's town hall meeting to discuss the Plan as well.

**REPORTS**

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

President Wang stated that Jeanne Spence was unable to attend the meeting and would send information to the Board at a later time.

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

Wendy Townley appeared and stated that there is only one more Board of Trustees Meeting before Omaha Gives on May 23. Ms. Townley stated that the Foundation raised just over \$24,000.00 through Omaha Gives, and the Friends participate as well. Ms. Townley stated that a recruitment event is coming up in April for the 1877 Society, a young professional's group. Ms. Townley also stated that citizens will be voting for the bond issue on May 15, which is quickly approaching. She has been meeting with potential donors, as well as lapsed donors, recently, informing them of what is happening at OPL.

President Wang asked Ms. Townley if the Foundation wanted a 'wish list' for the new facility, and, if so, how far out. Ms. Townley stated that the Foundation does indeed want a 'wish list' from OPL, as it is helpful for donors. Kennedy asked about naming the new branch. He stated that he is on the City Naming Committee, and he knows that if a sizable monetary donation is made, the 'name' can be moved up the list. Ms. Townley stated that she does not know the exact amount that will need to be donated to gain naming rights – it will be a percentage. Once the Board and OPL know what the entire project cost is, the dollar amount can be identified.

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

Laura Marlane stated that OPL has started working on the 2019 budget. OPL is looking to add another Librarian III to finish off the organizational structure in the Administrative Office. More money will be requested for materials, as well as for additional security at other locations.

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

President Wang stated that she was called by an Attorney on behalf of a family earlier in the week, asking if the family could turn over seven acres of land to the Board for future growth issues. Herself and Ms. Townley are working together to figure out whether or not the land should be deeded over to the Foundation or to the City for holding, as well as who has to pay for maintenance, etc. President Wang stated that the Board will need to make a recommendation regarding the land, as it cannot be granted to the Board but rather to something, like the Foundation or City.

Kennedy asked what the purpose of the land donation was, and President Wang stated that the family was not interested in any naming opportunities. The Board needs to ensure that there is no deed restriction. President Wang noted that she will be speaking with the Attorney soon, but she feels that this transfer will happen yet this year. Portis brought up the question of whether or not infrastructure is at the site already, and President Wang stated that it should not be an issue considering where the site is located.

Ms. Peters confirmed that if the land goes to the City, it can be structured so that they leave it in trust for the Library and the Library's use only for future development and purposes, so long as everyone is very clear. President Wang said that the Attorney asked what her preference was, so further discussion will be occurring.

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

None.

---

## **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**

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 15.

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

## **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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Due to the lack of a quorum, President Wang adjourned the meeting at 5:42 P.M.**

---

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

---

Acting Secretary