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



Wednesday, April 18, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
W. Dale Clark Main Library – 215 South 15th Street

CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street (Omaha). President Wang called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

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

ABSENT: Mike Kennedy

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Caitlin Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

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 available on the table. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on April 11, 2018.

BRANCH REPORT

3. [W. Dale Clark Main Library](#) – Judy Shannon (Collection Development Manager)

Judy Shannon, Collection Development Manager, appeared and spoke. She gave a brief overview of what she and her team do in regards to Collection Development.

ACTION ITEMS

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 Consent Agenda item or Resolution, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Wang stated that any Trustee may remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be addressed by the Board immediately following. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board. Public comment and Board approval is today.

4. [Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2018](#) *(Over from 3/21/2018)*
5. [Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2018](#)
6. [Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2018](#)

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Items 4 through 6.

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

MOTION by Portis, SECOND by Suarez-Delgado, that Agenda Items 4 through 6 (Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2018; Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2018; and, Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2018) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Frost

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

RESOLUTIONS

7. [Approval to grant Executive Director authority to negotiate agreement on property for southwest branch](#) *(Over from 3/21/2018) (Public comment and approval today)*

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 7.

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

Frost clarified that even with this Resolution being approved, the agreement would still have to be approved by the Board. President Wang stated that there has been some questioning of whether this Resolution is actually needed, but the Board is erring on the safe side.

Michelle Peters, City of Omaha Law Department, stated that the sequence of events involved with building a new branch varies depending on how the Board proceeds. One factor to consider is whether the land is owned by the Board, the Foundation, or the City of Omaha. Ms. Peters advised against the Board having ownership of the land.

TRUSTEE KENNEDY ENTERS THE MEETING AT 5:16 P.M.

Questions were asked by the Board in regards to who was ultimately in charge of the building process. Ms. Peters stated that the State Statutes ultimately presume that the Board has actual fiscal control of the funds needed for the construction; however, that is not the case with the Omaha Public Library. With the majority of funds coming from the City of Omaha, the Board will not have exclusive control over the money. There will be many within the City of Omaha who will provide input and be involved with the project.

Ms. Peters discussed how negotiations will vary based upon whether the land for the new southwest branch is donated or if it is through a lease purchase agreement. The entire project is also dependent upon the vote to approve the City bonds at the May election.

MOTION by Portis, SECOND by Sullivan, that Agenda Item 7 (Approval to grant Executive Director authority to negotiate agreement on property for southwest branch) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

8. **[Approval of amendments to the Board of Trustees' By-Laws](#)** (*Public comment and approval to be held on 5/16/2018 pursuant to Article VI of the By-Laws*)

Lutz gave a brief overview of his suggestions for amendments to the Board's By-Laws, with Ms. Peters adding in additional clarifications.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Suarez-Delgado stated that the Finance Committee is waiting to see how the vote turns out for the City bonds at the May election.

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

Kennedy stated that the Facilities Committee had went out to the Keith Lutz Horizon High School and met with Millard Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Sutfin. Kennedy continued that he believes that the next step is to meet and talk with the potential partners. Once that occurs, another Committee meeting will be scheduled.

President Wang stated that a donor has approached her about a potential site for the new southwest branch. There are some questions about how much space is actually needed for the branch however. President Wang stated that she is waiting to see if the potential donors are going to donate the land with or without conditions, and then she will present the potential donation to the Committee.

Ms. Marlane stated that she is going to meet with the Mayor and Dr. Sutfin on Friday, and she will know more about this potential site after that meeting.

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

None.

REPORTS

12. **[Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)** – Jeanne Spence (President)

Jeanne Spence, President of the Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke. She stated that membership is up for the group, as well as their regular Thursday/Saturday sales and internet sales. The group is looking for more Board members.

Ms. Spence discussed book donations and how these books are priced and researched.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke. She stated that Omaha Gives is on Wednesday, May 23, and encouraged everyone to participate.

Ms. Townley stated that the author for their 2018 annual fundraiser has been announced, and it is Amy Thielen. The fundraiser is taking place on September 26, with a free event occurring the night prior on September 25.

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

Ms. Marlane gave a brief overview of happenings going on at OPL. She stated that OPL will be receiving a School Bell Award from the Omaha Education Association next month.

OPL is in the process of working on the 2019 budget. Next month, Ms. Marlane will present the requested budget to the Board.

The Stronger Together – Building Literacy-Rich Communities symposium is being held next month. Any Trustees wanting to attend are asked to let Ms. Marlane know no later than next week.

The annual OPL Staff Day is scheduled for Friday, April 27th. All branches will be closed except for the South Omaha Library.

OPL and Fontenelle Forest have partnered together, enabling OPL card holders to check-out a membership for their family beginning on May 1st. A collaboration with the Omaha Children's Museum is still in the works.

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

President Wang stated that Board officer positions are open for nominations. If there is any Board member who would like an officer position, please let President Wang know before the next Board meeting so that a slate of nominations can be presented in May with elections occurring in June.

16. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

President Wang stated that this is Trustee Portis' last meeting as a Board member, as he is resigning effective tomorrow. He was thanked for his service and leadership. Portis thanked everyone for their work, and stated that OPL's best assets are the staff.

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.

17. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Wang opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 17.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

18. 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

MOTION by Sullivan, SECOND by Frost, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:54 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Acting Secretary