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

Thursday, July 16, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Benson Branch – 6015 Binney Street



**CALL TO ORDER**

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the Benson Branch Library, 6015 Binney Street (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

**PRESENT:** Michael Alley  
John Barrett  
Keegan Korf, Vice-President  
Keith Lutz  
Jesse Sullivan  
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mike Kennedy, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM:** Kristin Williams (Non-voting)

**ABSENT:** Adrian Suarez-Delgado

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

President Kennedy stated that the meeting is held in accordance with the [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#), a copy of which is available on the table and on the wall. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on July 10, 2020.

**BRANCH REPORT**

3. [Benson Branch](#)

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

President Kennedy stated that any person who has been invited to speak or has requested 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. 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. The President, or presiding officer, may use reasonable discretion to limit or extend a speaker's time to avoid redundancy, to assure a thorough public discussion on matters before the Board, and to end discussion.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

President Kennedy 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 – June 18, 2020](#)**

President Kennedy opened the public comment period on the Consent Agenda.

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

**MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Wang, that the Consent Agenda (Agenda Item 4 – Approval of minutes – June 18, 2020) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Alley, Barrett, Korf, Lutz, Sullivan, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 5. **[Finance Committee](#)** – Korf (Chair), Alley, Sullivan

## **TRUSTEE SUAREZ-DELGADO ENTERS THE MEETING AT 5:03 P.M.**

Korf stated that Mayor Stothert is presenting the 2021 City of Omaha recommended budget on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. and the public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

### 6. **Facilities Committee** – Kennedy (Chair), Lutz, Wang

None.

### 7. **Community Engagement Committee** – Suarez-Delgado (Chair), Barrett, Williams

None.

## **REPORTS**

### 8. **[Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)** – Brian Overton (President)

President Kennedy stated that Brian Overton, President of the Friends of Omaha Public Library, could not be in attendance but did provide a copy of his report.

### 9. **[Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)** – Wendy Townley (Executive Director)

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke.

### 10. **[Director's Report](#)** – Laura Marlane (Executive Director)

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke.

11. **Board President's Report – Mike Kennedy (President)**

President Kennedy appeared and spoke. He stated that he and Ms. Marlane will be meeting with Mayor Stothert on Thursday, July 23 to discuss library matters, such as re-opening and funding. While Board members have been encouraged to speak with County Commissioners privately regarding the appropriation of CARES funding to the City of Omaha, President Kennedy will ask the Mayor if she is in favor of the Board of Trustees approving and presenting a Resolution to the County Commissioners asking that the City of Omaha be given more than \$25 million.

President Kennedy continued that he would like the Board to work on a new strategic plan for Omaha Public Library over the next couple of years, and asked Trustees to think about the vision for the Library.

**TRUSTEE SULLIVAN EXITS THE MEETING AT 5:28 P.M.**

Committee assignments will be altered slightly. If any Trustees have any preferences or concerns, please speak with President Kennedy.

Korf stated that since the membership of the Board has changed considerably, she is asking that each Board member send her an email for their top three choices for which branch(es) they would like to be a liaison to. The liaison develops a working relationship with the Branch manager, visits the branch and attends programming (monthly at a minimum), interacting with the staff and patrons if they choose to.

12. **Library Liaison Reports – Library Trustees**

Korf stated that she appreciates the online reservation system for the curbside pickup. She also read an email forwarded to her from a colleague praising Omaha Public Library.

**PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS**

President Kennedy 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.

13. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 13.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14. 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 Lutz, SECOND by Wang, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Alley, Barrett, Korf, Lutz, Suarez-Delgado, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:38 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer