

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



Thursday, August 20, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.

W. Dale Clark Main Library – 215 South 15th Street, Lower Level Meeting Rooms 2 & 3

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street, Lower Level Meeting Rooms 2 & 3 (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

**PRESENT:** John Barrett  
Keegan Korf, Vice-President  
Keith Lutz  
Jesse Sullivan  
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer (Entered at 5:09 P.M.)  
Mike Kennedy, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

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

**ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING:** 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 August 14, 2020.

**BRANCH REPORT**

3. **[W. Dale Clark Main Library](#)**

Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Branch Operations, appeared and spoke. She highlighted work being done by staff at the W. Dale Clark Main Library during the closure

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

4. **2020 Omaha Reads book – [“After the Flood” by Kassandra Montag](#)**

Erin Duerr, Readers & Writers Librarian, appeared and spoke. She provided a summary of the Omaha Reads book and informed the Board of events occurring involving the book.

**TRUSTEE WANG ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:09 P.M.**

## **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.

President Kennedy removed both items from the Consent Agenda.

### 5. **[Approval of minutes – July 16, 2020](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – July 16, 2020) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

### 6. **[Res. 2020-05 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2021](#)**

President Kennedy opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 6.

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

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Barrett, that the Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2020-05 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2021) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

## **RESOLUTION**

President Kennedy stated that the public comment and Board approval is today.

7. **[Res. 2020-06 Approval of request to Douglas County Commissioners to deliver CARES Act funding to the City of Omaha](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Sullivan, that the Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2020-06 Approval of request to Douglas County Commissioners to deliver CARES Act funding to the City of Omaha) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8. **[Finance Committee](#)** – Korf (Chair), Kennedy, Sullivan

None.

9. **Facilities Committee** – Wang (Chair), Alley, Lutz

None.

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

None.

## **REPORTS**

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

None.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke. She highlighted key points from her report.

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke. She highlighted key points from her report.

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

President Kennedy appeared and spoke. He stated that he and Ms. Marlane met with Mayor Stothert regarding the Library Board and the budget. He continued that the Board will begin work on a new strategic plan soon.

Korf stated that the Trustees have new liaison assignments. Assignments have been distributed to all Board members. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to Korf.

15. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Wang stated that she reached out to Amy Wenzl, Branch Manager at the Saddlebrook Branch, who is currently working out of the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, to touch base.

Korf highly recommends [The Book Drop podcast](#) from Omaha Public Library staff. Staff offers reading suggestions, host various guests, and chat about various topics related to the community.

**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.

16. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 16.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer