

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



Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 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 Thursday, April 15, 2021 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:11 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Keith Lutz (Entered at 5:11 P.M.)
Adrian Suarez-Delgado
Jesse Sullivan
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Michael Alley
John Barrett
Kristin Williams

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. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on April 9, 2021.

TRUSTEE LUTZ ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:11 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.

3. **[Approval of minutes – March 18, 2021](#)**

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 3 – Approval of minutes – March 18, 2021) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Korf, Lutz, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

RESOLUTION

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

4. **[Res. 2021-04 Approval of Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees to review a proposal on the use of the Benson Branch Library parking lot after library hours for public parking pending the approval of a Parking Benefit District by the City of Omaha City Council](#)**

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

Kenneth Smith, City Parking & Mobility Manager, appeared and spoke (via Zoom).

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

MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Suarez-Delgado, that Agenda Item 4 (Res. 2021-04 Approval of Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees to review a proposal on the use of the Benson Branch Library parking lot after library hours for public parking pending the approval of a Parking Benefit District by the City of Omaha City Council) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Korf, Lutz, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

None.

6. **[Facilities Committee](#)** – Wang (Chair), Alley, Lutz

W. Clarke Swanson Branch is closed from April 15 through April 18 for the lower level floor replacement.

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

None.

REPORTS

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

None.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke (via Zoom). She highlighted key points in her report.

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

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

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

President Kennedy stated that the Board will work on the Executive Director's performance evaluation next month and plan on going into Executive Session in June to discuss the results.

President Kennedy discussed an article that was featured in the Omaha World-Herald on March 27, 2021 entitled "[Omaha's Gene Leahy Mall to reopen in 2022 as a 'highly activated' park](#)" (Ristau) and how the Library can collaborate with MECA to provide activities and programs at the park.

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

None.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Korf, Lutz, Suarez-Delgado, Sullivan, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:34 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer