

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES



Thursday, July 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, July 15, 2021 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Keith Lutz
Rochelle Mullen
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer (Entered at 5:06 P.M. via Zoom)
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Tulani Grundy Meadows
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 July 9, 2021.

TRUSTEE WANG ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:06 P.M. VIA ZOOM

CONTINUING EDUCATION

3. **“Short Takes for Trustees” by the American Library Association (accessed via the [Nebraska Library Commission website](#))**

The Board of Trustees must participate in continuing education to maintain accreditation. Board members viewed one video entitled “*What It Means to Be a Trustee*” and answered and discussed questions presented by Ms. Marlane.

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 17, 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 Barrett, that the Consent Agenda (Agenda Item 4 – Approval of minutes – June 17, 2021) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Korf, Lutz, Mullen, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

RESOLUTIONS

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

5. **[Res. 2021-06 Approval of 2022 budget request](#)**

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

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

MOTION by Barrett, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 5 (Res. 2021-06 Approval of 2022 budget request) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Korf, Lutz, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Mullen

MOTION APPROVED 4-0

6. **[Res. 2021-07 Approval of temporary closure at Millard Branch for stanchion removal and carpet replacement](#)**

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

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2021-07 Approval of temporary closure at Millard Branch for stanchion removal and carpet replacement) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Korf, Lutz, Mullen, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. **Finance Committee** – Korf (Chair), Kennedy

None.

8. **Facilities Committee** – Wang (Chair), Lutz

None.

9. **Community Engagement Committee** – Barrett, Williams

None.

REPORTS

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

None.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, was unable to attend the meeting but provided her report to the Board.

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke. In addition to her report, she discussed a new book mobile that the Omaha Public Library Foundation will be funding for community outreach.

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

Because of current Committee vacancies, President Kennedy asked that all Board members send him their top Committee choices at least one week prior to the next Board meeting on Thursday, August 19. He also asked that all Board members send him their top choices on Library liaison assignments before the next Board meeting.

14. **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.

15. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Kennedy opened up 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

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Korf, Lutz, Mullen, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:51 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer