

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES



Thursday, August 19, 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, August 19, 2021 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

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

**PRESENT:** John Barrett  
Tulani Grundy Meadows  
Keegan Korf, Vice-President  
Keith Lutz (Entered at 5:04 P.M. via Zoom)  
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer (Entered at 5:09 P.M. via Zoom)  
Kristin Williams  
Mike Kennedy, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING:** Rochelle Mullen

**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 August 13, 2021.

**TRUSTEE LUTZ ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:04 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

3. **2021 Omaha Reads book – [“You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism” by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar](#)**

Erin Duerr, Readers & Writers Librarian, appeared and spoke. Ms. Duerr stated that each year, Omaha Public Library encourages the community to come together to read one book as part of Omaha Reads, providing the City with a common theme to discuss. This year’s featured book is [“You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism”](#) by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar.

A virtual author visit is planned for Thursday, September 2, with two online book discussions on Wednesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 23. An online closing reflection is planned for Thursday, September 30.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

4. **“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.

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

**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 HAS REMOVED ALL ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

5. **[Approval of minutes – July 15, 2021](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Grundy Meadows, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – July 15, 2021) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy Meadows, Korf, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Williams

**MOTION APPROVED 4-0**

6. **[Res. 2021-08 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2022](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Williams, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2021-08 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2022) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy Meadows, Korf, Williams, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

7. **[Res. 2021-09 Approval of appointment of Trustee Keegan Korf to the South Omaha Library Entity Board](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Barrett, SECOND by Grundy Meadows, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2021-09 Approval of appointment of Trustee Keegan Korf to the South Omaha Library Entity Board) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy Meadows, Korf, Williams, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

None.

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

None.

10. **Community Engagement Committee** – 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 items in her report.

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

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

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

President Kennedy requested input from Trustees on their preference of Board committee assignments. Trustees are assigned to the following committees moving forward:

- **Finance Committee:** Keegan Korf (Chair), Mike Kennedy, *Vacancy*
- **Facilities Committee:** Jen Rae Wang (Chair), Keith Lutz, Rochelle Mullen
- **Community Engagement Committee:** John Barrett (Chair), Tulani Grundy Meadows, Kristin Williams

President Kennedy and Korf worked with Trustees to delegate [Branch Liaison Assignments](#). Trustees are assigned to the following branches moving forward:

- **John Barrett:** W. Clarke Swanson Branch
- **Tulani Grundy Meadows:** Benson Branch, Milton R. Abrahams Branch
- **Mike Kennedy:** W. Dale Clark Main Library, Florence Branch
- **Keegan Korf:** Charles B. Washington Branch, Willa Cather Branch, South Omaha Library
- **Keith Lutz:** Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch
- **Rochelle Mullen:** Millard Branch
- **Jen Rae Wang:** Saddlebrook Branch
- **Kristin Williams:** A.V. Sorensen Branch

Continuing on, Ms. Marlane stated that at the next Board meeting, she would be inviting members from the Foundation Board and the Friends Board for a facilitated conversation with Susan Koenig, the Strategic Planning consultant hired by the Library. She stated that the Strategic Planning team, along with Susan Koenig, is currently working on goals and contemplating community conversations surrounding the Strategic Plan.

**TRUSTEE WILLIAMS LEFT THE MEETING AT 5:47 P.M.**

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

Korf stated that she attended the Friends of Omaha Public Library Book Sale.

**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**

**DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM, THE MEETING OF THE OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer