
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch – 2100 Reading Plaza (Elkhorn)



CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, 2100 Reading Plaza (Elkhorn). 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
Rochelle Mullen
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Kennedy, President

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Tulani Grundy Meadows
Keith Lutz
Kristin Williams

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

2. 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 November 12, 2021.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **[Casey Kralik, Branch Manager, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch](#)**

Casey Kralik, Branch Manager of Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and answered questions from Board members.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION REPORT/PRESENTATION

4. **Rachel Steiner, Assistant Director; Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations; and Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branch Services**

Rachel Steiner, Assistant Director, Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations, and Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branch Services, appeared and spoke. Each discussed their specific roles within Omaha Public Library.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

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

5. **[Approval of minutes – October 21, 2021](#)**

President Kennedy opened up 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 – October 21, 2021) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

6. **[Res. 2021-10 Approval of Board of Trustees to lend its support to working jointly with Heritage Services, the City of Omaha, and other community stakeholders to create a plan for enhancing existing and creating new public library spaces and programming for the benefit of all citizens of Omaha](#)**

A. **[Communication in opposition](#)**

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

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- Rachel Jacobson, President, Heritage Services, 10050 Regency Circle, Suite 101
- Pete Fey, 418 South 38th Avenue, Apartment 22
- Terri Diesing, 9709 Pinehurst Circle
- Rosemary Keenan, 1502 Harney Street, Apartment 402

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2021-10 Approval of Board of Trustees to lend its support to working jointly with Heritage Services, the City of Omaha, and other community stakeholders to create a plan for enhancing existing and creating new public library spaces and programming for the benefit of all citizens of Omaha) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Korf due to a potential conflict of interest

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

None.

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

None.

9. **Community Engagement Committee** – Barrett (Chair), Grundy Meadows, Williams

Barrett reported that he met with Branch Manager Matt Couch at the W. Clarke Swanson Branch.

REPORTS

10. **Friends of Omaha Public Library** – Jeanne Spence (Advisor/Past President)

Jeanne Spence, Advisor/Past President of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke. She introduced the new President, Margaret Pope, and new President-Elect, Meghan Hope, both taking office at the end of January. Ms. Spence highlighted key items from her report.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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.

Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek, 16626 Harney Street, appeared and spoke. She inquired about the open Board of Trustees' position.

No one else 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.

A. Motion needed to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate/land negotiations only.

MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Wang, to go into Executive Session at 6:16 P.M. for the purpose of discussing real estate/land negotiations only.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

PRESIDENT KENNEDY STATED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REAL ESTATE/LAND NEGOTIATIONS ONLY.

B. Motion needed to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Wang, to come out of Executive Session at 6:44 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

PRESIDENT KENNEDY STATED THAT WHILE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISCUSSED REAL ESTATE/LAND NEGOTIATIONS ONLY.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:44 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer