
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 16, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

Millard Branch – 13214 Westwood Lane



CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at the Millard Branch, 13214 Westwood Lane (Omaha). President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Tulani Grundy Meadows
Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Keith Lutz
Rochelle Mullen (Entered at 5:02 P.M. via Zoom)
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer (Entered at 5:02 P.M. via Zoom)
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: John Barrett
Kristin Williams

President Kennedy stated that no action would be taken at the meeting since there is no quorum of the public body physically together.

Meeting convened with Reports only.

TRUSTEES MULLEN AND WANG ENTERED THE MEETING VIA ZOOM AT 5:02 P.M.

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 September 10, 2021.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

3. [Approval of minutes – August 19, 2021](#)

Due to no physical quorum of the Board, Agenda Item 3 will be laid over to the October 21, 2021 Regular Board meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

REPORTS

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

None.

8. **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 information from her report, including the Foundation's 2021 fundraiser *Between the Lines with Yaa Gyasi* on Tuesday, October 5. Tickets can be purchased online on the Foundation's [website](#).

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke, highlighting information from her report. Five public forums will be hosted in October to gain public feedback for the Library's strategic plan. More information can be found on the Library's [website](#).

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

President Kennedy spoke about the recent [Omaha World-Herald article](#) which discusses the possible future of Omaha Public Library.

11. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Wang stated that she and her family went to the Saddlebrook Branch.

Korf stated that she has set up meetings with the Branch Managers at the Washington Branch, South Omaha Branch, and Willa Cather Branch.

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.

12. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Kennedy opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 12.

Nicole Wheeler, 309 South 50th Street, co-owner of Dundee Book Company and co-director of Omaha Lit Fest, appeared and spoke. Wheeler thanked the Omaha Public Library Board and Omaha Public Library Foundation for their continued support of Omaha Lit Fest.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. 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 THE LACK OF QUORUM, THE MEETING OF THE OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer