
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

Milton R. Abrahams Branch – 5111 North 90th Street

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at the Milton R. Abrahams Branch, 5111 North 90th Street. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Tulani Grundy-Meadows
Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Rochelle Mullen
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer (**Entered @ 5:26 P.M.**)
Bryan Wilson
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Cameron Gales

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 and wall. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on August 12, 2022.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **Katy Lofgren, Branch Manager**

Katy Lofgren, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

4. **Theresa Jehlik, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager**

Theresa Jehlik, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed information about her Department and statistics regarding the Library system.

TRUSTEE WANG ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:26 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

5. **2022 Omaha Reads book – [“The Perfume Thief” by Timothy Schaffert](#)**

Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager, discussed the 2022 Omaha Reads book and answered questions from Board members.

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.

6. [Approval of minutes – July 16, 2022](#)

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

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

MOTION by Grundy Meadows, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 6 (Approval of minutes – July 16, 2022) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy-Meadows, Korf, Mullen, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

7. [Res. 2022-12 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2023](#)

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

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2022-12 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy-Meadows, Korf, Mullen, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

9. **Board President and Vice President's Report** – Mike Kennedy (President) and Keegan Korf (Vice President)

Korf distributed updated [Trustee Liaison assignments](#).

President Kennedy updated the Board Committee assignments as follows:

- Finance Committee: Keegan Korf (Chair); Mike Kennedy; Rochelle Mullen
- Community Engagement Committee: Tulani Grundy Meadows (Chair); John Barrett
- Facilities Committee: Rochelle Mullen (Chair); Cameron Gales; Jen Rae Wang

Wilson is going to get back to President Kennedy regarding what Committee he would like to join.

10. **[Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)** – Margaret Pope (President)

Margaret Pope, President of Friends of Omaha Public Library, was unable to attend the meeting but submitted her report.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

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

Korf visited the South Omaha Library to get her child signed up for a library card.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

None.

14. **Community Engagement Committee** – Barrett (Chair), Grundy Meadows, *Vacant*

None.

15. **Facilities Committee** – Wang (Chair), Gales, Mullen

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.

16. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 16.

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- Michael Young, 8425 Sheffield Street
- E. C. Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street, Apartment 301

No one else 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.

- A. **Motion needed to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues only (evaluation of Executive Director).**

MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Korf, to go into Executive Session at 6:37 P.M. for the purpose of discussing personnel issues only.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy-Meadows, Korf, Mullen, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

PRESIDENT KENNEDY STATED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES ONLY.

- B. **Motion needed to come out of Executive Session.**

MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Wilson, to come out of Executive Session at 7:19 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy-Meadows, Korf, Mullen, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

PRESIDENT KENNEDY STATED THAT WHILE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISCUSSED PERSONNEL ISSUES ONLY.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Grundy-Meadows, Korf, Mullen, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer

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