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## OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

W. Dale Clark Main Library – 215 South 15th Street



### CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at the W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 South 15th Street. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

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

**PRESENT:** John Barrett  
Cameron Gales  
Rochelle Mullen  
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mike Kennedy, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING:** Tulani Grundy Meadows  
Keegan Korf, Vice-President  
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 January 14, 2022.

### BRANCH REPORT

3. [Natalie Struecker, Branch Manager](#)

Natalie Struecker, Branch Manager of W. Dale Clark Main Library, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and answered questions from Board members.

### DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

4. **Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager; and Nancy Novotny, Youth & Family Services Manager**

Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager, and Nancy Novotny, Youth & Family Services Manager, 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.

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Items 5 through 8.

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- Heather Bullis, 2519 South 11th Street
- Nicole Wheeler, 309 South 50th Street
- Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek, 16626 Harney Street
- Edwin Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street
- Erik Oberg, 6319 North 36th Avenue
- Kim Kalkowski, 1502 South 10th Street

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

5. **[Approval of minutes – December 16, 2021](#)**

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Mullen, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – December 16, 2021) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

6. **[Res. 2022-01 Approval of lease agreement with 1401 Jones, LLC for lease of certain premises located at 1401 Jones Street](#)**

A. **[Communications opposed](#)**

**MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2022-01 Approval of lease agreement with 1401 Jones, LLC for lease of certain premises located at 1401 Jones Street) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Gales

**MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1**

7. **[Res. 2022-02 Approval of lease agreement with Frederick Square Limited Partnership for lease of certain premises located at 3020 South 84th Street](#)**

A. **Communications opposed**

**MOTION by Barrett, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2022-02 Approval of lease agreement with Frederick Square Limited Partnership for lease of certain premises located at 3020 South 84th Street) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Gales

**MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1**

8. **[Res. 2022-03 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Omaha](#)**

A. **Communications opposed**

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Barrett, that Agenda Item 8 (Res. 2022-03 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Omaha) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

None.

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

A Building Stakeholder Group is meeting on a monthly basis through April to hear from the architecture team to hear on their progress and to offer feedback as they work through their optimal design for the new Central Library for Omaha to serve all ages in the community for generations.

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

The Committee is working on a process to engage with the community as there is a lot to do.

**REPORTS**

12. **Friends of Omaha Public Library** – Margaret Pope (President)

Margaret Pope, President of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

13. **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.

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

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

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

President Kennedy stated that the Board Committees are gearing up for more activity. Trustee Mullen is being appointed to serve additionally on the Finance Committee. Trustee Gales and President Kennedy will speak to find a Committee appropriate.

President Kennedy emphasized that the Board is committed to using public input and implementing it into the Strategic Plan.

16. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Trustee Wang shared how her family appreciates the staff at the Elkhorn Branch, which her family frequents.

**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.

17. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 17.

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- Kimara Snipes, 1729 South 12th Street

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

18. 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 Wang, SECOND by Mullen, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:31 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer