

---

## OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

Benson Branch – 6015 Binney Street



### CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Benson Branch, 6015 Binney 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  
Cameron Gales  
Tulani Grundy Meadows  
Keith Lutz  
Rochelle Mullen  
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mike Kennedy, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING:** Keegan Korf, Vice-President  
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 February 11, 2022.

### BRANCH REPORT

3. [Jennifer Jazyuka, Branch Manager](#)

Jennifer Jazyuka, Branch Manager of Benson Branch, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and answered questions from Board members.

### DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

4. **Jason Goossen, IT Services Manager**

Jason Goossen, IT Services Manager, appeared and spoke. He discussed his role 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 – January 20, 2022**

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 Gales, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – January 20, 2022) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Gales, Grundy Meadows, Lutz, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

6. **Res. 2022-04 Approval of temporary closure at Willa Cather Branch for installation of new carpet**

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

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

**MOTION by Wang, SECOND by Mullen, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2022-04 Approval of temporary closure at Willa Cather Branch for installation of new carpet) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Gales, Grundy Meadows, Lutz, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

President Kennedy stated that he will plan on having the committee meet with Ms. Marlane and staff about the 2023 budget as soon as the Library receives its target number from the Mayor and City Finance Department.

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

Wang stated that her committee has had two stakeholder meetings regarding the new Downtown Branch, and they have also reached out to Noddle to begin having regular Owner's Representative meetings.

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

Barrett stated that his committee is going to be focusing on how to engage the community and gather input from all members and stakeholders throughout the community for the new Downtown Branch at 1401 Jones Street.

The second potential project that the committee is working on is a new Main Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets. This involves several potential partners, including Heritage Services, DoSpace, Margaret Sullivan Studios, and the City of Omaha, to name a few. Barrett and Grundy Meadows had an opportunity to attend a community engagement session with Margaret Sullivan Studios the prior week with around 30 people in attendance. Three different stakeholder groups are currently being looked at: Omaha Public Library and DoSpace staff and leaders; Omaha community leaders; and the general public. The discussion at the session really focused on the question of who are the community leaders in Omaha, and ensuring that these leaders are diverse in many different aspects. Margaret Sullivan is looking at ways to engage the community and public through surveys and public forums.

The next steps in the process are asking the community for input, which involves inviting more people to be involved in the meetings and circulating the survey to the public.

President Kennedy is adding Trustee Gales to the Community Engagement Committee to assist with the tasks ahead.

## **REPORTS**

10. **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.

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report. She noted that the Virtual Book Bash is on Thursday, February 24th. The public can sign-up to attend on [Omaha Public Library's website](#).

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

President Kennedy thanked all of the committees for the work that they have done and all of the work that they are going to be doing.

He continued by addressing a recent [article in the Omaha World-Herald](#) regarding the homeless population and libraries.

14. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Trustees discussed Board liaison assignments and what their roles as a liaison looks like.

## **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.

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- [Marjorie Sturgeon, 1015 North 16th Street](#)
- E.C. Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street

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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Gales, Grundy Meadows, Lutz, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:06 P.M.**

---

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

---

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer