
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

Charles B. Washington Branch – 2868 Ames Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the Charles B. Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Avenue. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Cameron Gales
Tulani Grundy Meadows
Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Keith Lutz
Rochelle Mullen
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: 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 and wall. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on April 15, 2022.

BRANCH REPORT

3. [Amy Wenzl, Branch Manager](#)

Amy Wenzl, Branch Manager of Charles B. Washington Branch, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and answered questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

4. [Linda Miles, Facilities Manager](#)

Linda Miles, Facilities Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed her 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 – March 17, 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 Korf, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – March 17, 2022) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Grundy Meadows, Korf, Lutz, Mullen, Wang, President Kennedy

Nays: None

Abstain: Barrett, Gales

MOTION APPROVED 6-0-2

6. **[Res. 2022-06 Approval of revised Holiday and Closing Dates for 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 Korf, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2022-06 Approval of revised Holiday and Closing Dates for 2022) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

REPORTS

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

Ms. Marlane appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report. The Board has requested that a representative from DOT.Comm come to a regular Board meeting to answer questions from the Board.

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

President Kennedy appeared and spoke.

9. **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.

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

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

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

None.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Korf stated that the committee has met with Ms. Marlane and staff to get more information about Library wants and needs in regards to the 2023 budget. Ms. Marlane is meeting with Mayor Stothert on Monday, May 16th to discuss the recommended budget.

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

Barrett stated that many community members and partners participated in the community survey and the in-person community breakfasts for the proposed Central Library, as well as the open house hosted by the A.V. Sorensen Community Center.

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

Wang stated that updates from Noddle Companies are being made monthly, and the information will be available on the website.

A. **Learning Journeys Presentation** – Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations; and Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branches

Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations, and Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branches, appeared and spoke. Both provided an overview of recent trips they went on to tour and view different library facilities.

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.

No one 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 Lutz, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:28 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer