

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Millard Branch – 13214 Westwood Lane

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at the Millard Branch, 13214 Westwood Lane. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Rochelle Mullen
Albert Varas
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Bryan Wilson
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Cameron Gales
Keegan Korf, Vice-President

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 of the table and wall. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on February 10, 2023.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **Autumn Hill, Branch Manager**

Autumn Hill, 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. **Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager; and Nancy Novotny, Youth Services Manager**

Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager, and Nancy Novotny, Youth Services Manager, appeared and spoke.

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 – November 16, 2022](#)** (*Over from 1/18/2023 and continue the public hearing*)

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 5.

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – November 16, 2022) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Varas, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

6. **[Res. 2023-01 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase](#)** (*Over from 1/18/2023 and continue the public hearing*)

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

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2023-01 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Varas, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

7. **[Res. 2023-02 Approval of 2023 budget request with funding sources](#)** (*Over from 1/18/2023 and continue the public hearing*)

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 Barrett, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2023-02 Approval of 2023 budget request with funding sources) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Varas, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

REPORTS

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

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

In regards to the 2024 budget, Ms. Marlane stated that the Library does not have the target number yet but should be receiving that in the month of March. The Finance Department will open up the budget software program, which allows all departments to enter in budget data for 2024, and the Library is expected to meet the target number given to us. If there are additional asks from the Library, a memo detailing those asks must be put together and presented to the Mayor in May. The focus lately for the Library has been on personnel, as that tends to be a more complex cost related to the budget as well as on going. Ms. Marlane stated that other items the Library intends to request an increase in budget for are related to inflation increases and contractor wage increases.

9. **Advisory Committee Report**

Trustee Mullen stated that the Advisory Committee has met a couple of times since the last Board meeting and neighborhood committees have been formed. The Central Library is progressing nicely and a citywide facilities [survey](#) is available to help determine the vision of neighborhood libraries. Updates are being posted on the [Central Public Library Project website](#).

10. **Neighborhood Steering Committee Report**

Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations, appeared and spoke. Ms. Johnson stated that the purpose of the new plan is to build off the 2010 and 2017 Facilities Plans and ask the communities what they would like to see in their neighborhood branch. The citywide facilities [survey](#) launched today for Library and non-Library users. The Committee had a couple of community-wide breakfasts the previous week, and will be hosting more meetings the next month. The Library plans to host some community engagement events in the near future as well.

11. **Board President and Vice-President Report** – Mike Kennedy (President) and Keegan Korf (Vice-President)

President Kennedy and Trustee Wang were able to visit the Downtown Branch with Mayor Stothert and some Councilmembers last month. Both President Kennedy and Trustee Wang wished to thank Mayor Stothert on the selection of the location of the Downtown Branch, as well as staff for their hard work on the many projects going on.

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

None.

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

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

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

Trustee Wilson visited the Saddlebrook Branch and was able to speak with staff and the Branch Manager.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

President Kennedy stated that when the Library has target numbers for the 2024 budget, the Board would hold a meeting as the Finance Committee of the Whole.

16. **Community Engagement Committee** – Barrett, Varas, *Vacant*

President Kennedy stated that Trustee Varas is appointed to the Community Engagement Committee.

Trustee Barrett stated that he has attended different meetings and community events, including Engagement Committee meetings regarding both the New Central Library and Facilities Master Plan.

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

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.

18. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 18.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. 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 Varas, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Mullen, Varas, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

MEETING ADJOURNED 6:42 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer