
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Downtown Branch – 1401 Jones Street

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the Downtown Branch, 1401 Jones Street. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Cameron Gales
Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Keegan Korf, Vice President
Rochelle Mullen
DeJuan Reddick
Albert Varas (**Entered @ 5:25 P.M.**)
Bryan Wilson
Mike Kennedy, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: John Barrett

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 June 16, 2023.

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.

3. [Approval of minutes – May 17, 2023](#)

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 3.

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

MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 3 (Approval of minutes – May 17, 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Hein-Wang, Korf, Mullen, Reddick, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

4. **[Res. 2023-06 Approval of amendments to By-Laws of the Board of Trustees](#)** (Over from 5/17/2023 pursuant to Article VI of the By-Laws for [publication](#) and public hearing)

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 4.

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

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 4 (Res. 2023-06 Approval of amendments to By-Laws of the Board of Trustees) be approved.

TRUSTEE VARAS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:25 P.M.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION by Gales, SECOND by Wilson, that Agenda Item 4 be laid over until August 16, 2023 and continue the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Mullen, Reddick, Varas, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: Hein-Wang, Korf

SUBSTITUTE MOTION APPROVED 6-2

LIBRARY FACILITIES PLAN AND PRO FORMA PRESENTATIONS

5. Margaret Sullivan and Kim Zablud, Consultants

Kim Zablud appeared and spoke via Zoom, followed by Margaret Sullivan.

RESOLUTION

Public comment and Board approval is today.

6. **[Res. 2023-07 Approval of Board to accept and endorse the Library Facility Plan and Pro Forma](#)**
- **[Library Facilities Plan – Full Report](#)**
 - **[Library Facilities Plan – Branch Profiles](#)**
 - **[Library Pro Forma](#)**

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 Gales, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2023-07 Approval of Board to accept and endorse the Library Facility Plan and Pro Forma) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Hein-Wang, Korf, Mullen, Reddick, Varas, Wilson, 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.

8. **Board President and Vice President Report** – Mike Kennedy, President, and Keegan Korf, Vice President

President Kennedy thanked the Mayor, City Council, Board, and library staff for their support and work over the last eight (8) years.

9. **Advisory Committee Report**

Trustee Mullen provided an update regarding the Advisory Committee.

10. **Friends of Omaha Public Library** – Meghan Hope, President

None.

11. **Omaha Public Library Foundation** – Wendy Townley, Executive Director

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

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

Trustee Reddick visited a couple of library branches and engaged with staff at those branches. Staff showed cautious optimism and excitement with the Facilities Plan.

Trustee Hein-Wang has been visiting a library every week, and she has really enjoyed visiting the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, her liaison assignment.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Korf had nothing further to add after previous presentations.

14. **Community Engagement Committee** – Barrett (Chair), Reddick, Varas

Trustee Barrett was excused from the meeting; however, President Kennedy stated that the Community Engagement Committee has been very busy connecting with members throughout the community.

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

Trustee Mullen provided an update regarding the Facilities Committee.

RESOLUTION

President Kennedy stated that public comment and Board approval is today.

16. **Res. 2023-08 Election and approval of Board Officers**

A. Election of President of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

Rochelle Mullen – 5 votes
Keegan Korf – 3 votes

Trustee Mullen elected President, receiving 5 votes.

B. Election of Vice President of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

Jen Rae Hein-Wang – 5 votes
DeJuan Reddick – 3 votes

Trustee Hein-Wang elected Vice President, receiving 5 votes.

C. Election of Secretary-Treasurer of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

DeJuan Reddick – 7 votes
Cameron Gales – 1 vote

Trustee Reddick elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

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. Persons are to be brief and to limit themselves to five minutes or less. 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. 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.

No one 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.

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

MOTION by Mullen, SECOND by Hein-Wang, to go into Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. for the purpose of discussing personnel issues only.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Hein-Wang, Korf, Mullen, Reddick, Varas, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

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 Gales, SECOND by Korf, to come out of Executive Session at 8:12 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Hein-Wang, Korf, Mullen, Reddick, Varas, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Gales, Hein-Wang, Korf, Mullen, Reddick, Varas, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:12 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Secretary-Treasurer