
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.
South Omaha Library – 2808 Q Street

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at the South Omaha Library, 2808 Q Street. President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Keegan Korf, Vice-President
Rochelle Mullen
DeJuan Reddick
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

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 14, 2023.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **Marvel Maring, Branch Manager**

Marvel Maring, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and its patrons, including upcoming events, and answered questions from Board members.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY MOVES AGENDA ITEMS 9 AND 17

9. **Advisory Committee Report**

Trustee Mullen stated that she and staff have been attending many meetings with the Advisory Committee. A report will be presented to the Board in May. Trustee Wilson added that he attends every meeting as well.

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

Trustee Mullen stated that she and other Trustees visited the new Downtown Branch prior to the meeting today.

President Kennedy offered his concerns about the lack of a new southwest branch. He stated that a timeline needs to be laid out, as well as an adequate budget to maintain and staff the facilities properly.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY MOVES AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7

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 – February 15, 2023**](#) *(Over from 3/15/2023 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 Wang, SECOND by Wilson, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – February 15, 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

6. [**Approval of minutes – March 22, 2023**](#)

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 Reddick, that Agenda Item 6 (Approval of minutes – March 22, 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

7. [**Res. 2023-05 Approval of temporary closure at Saddlebrook Branch for gym resurfacing**](#)

President Kennedy opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7.

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

MOTION by Korf, SECOND by Wang, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2023-05 Approval of temporary closure at Saddlebrook Branch for gym resurfacing) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

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

Jason Goossen, IT Services Manager, appeared and spoke. He highlighted work his department does and answered questions from Board members.

TRUSTEE MULLEN EXITED THE MEETING AT 5:35 P.M.

REPORTS

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

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

9. **Advisory Committee Report**

10. **Neighborhood Steering Committee Report**

Elizabeth Johnson, Senior Manager of Operations, appeared and spoke.

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

Trustee Korf and President Kennedy commended staff for their perseverance over the past few years. The Downtown Branch opens on May 21st.

President Kennedy asked that Trustee Reddick be appointed to the Community Engagement Committee.

12. **Friends of Omaha Public Library** – Meghan Hope (President)

Meghan Hope, 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, President of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke via Zoom, highlighting items from her report. She announced that Molly Shannon and Susan Orlean will be headlining the [2023 annual fundraiser](#) on September 26th.

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

Trustee Korf has asked Trustees to let her know which Branch(es) they would like to be paired with as a liaison.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

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

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.

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

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

The following persons appeared and spoke:

- Connie Remkus, 5027 South 178th Street
- E. C. Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street, Apartment 301

No one else 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 Korf, SECOND by Wang, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Korf, Reddick, Varas, Wang, Wilson, President Kennedy

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:13 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer