

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Florence Branch – 2920 Bondesson Street

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at the Florence Branch, 2920 Bondesson Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Joseph Bradley
Mikki Frost
Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Vice President
Keegan Korf
DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer (**Entered @ 5:10 P.M.**)
Rochelle Mullen, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING: Cameron Gales
Bryan Wilson

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

2. President Mullen 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 August 11, 2023.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **Lois Imig, Branch Manager**

Lois Imig, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

TRUSTEE REDDICK ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:10 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

4. **Jacob Lee, Adult Services Librarian – 2023 Omaha Reads book selection: “[Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#)” by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Jacob Lee, Adult Services Librarian, appeared and spoke. He discussed the 2023 Omaha Reads book and answered questions from Board members. He provided a [sheet](#) to Board members with information and events related to the book.

ACTION ITEMS

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

5. **[Approval of minutes – June 21, 2023](#)**

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

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

MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – June 21, 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Bradley, Hein-Wang, Korf, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

Abstain: Frost

MOTION APPROVED 6-0-1 ABSTAIN

6. **[Res. 2023-06 Reconsideration of amendments to By-Laws of the Board of Trustees](#)** *(Over from 6/21/2023 and continue the public hearing)*

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

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

Reconsideration of Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2023-06 Reconsideration of amendments to By-Laws of the Board of Trustees) failed due to lack of motion.

7. **[Res. 2023-09 Approval of 2024 budget request](#)**

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

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

MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2023-09 Approval of 2024 budget request) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Korf, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

8. **[Res. 2023-10 Approval of revised Holiday and Closing Dates for 2023](#)**

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 8.

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

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Barrett, that Agenda Item 8 (Res. 2023-10 Approval of revised Holiday and Closing Dates for 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Korf, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

9. **[Res. 2023-11 Approval of Library Executive Director class specification/job description](#)**

MOTION by Barrett, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that Agenda Item 9 (Res. 2023-11 Approval of Library Executive Director class specification/job description) be tabled to a future meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Korf, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

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

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

11. **Advisory Committee Report**

President Mullen appeared and spoke. She stated that Heritage has retained Kim Zablud and she will continue to work with Margaret Sullivan. The Advisory Committee is now meeting quarterly.

12. **Board President Report** – Rochelle Mullen, President

President Mullen appeared and spoke. She stated that Board orientation/training will be on Friday, September 15th from 2:00-4:30 P.M.

President Mullen continued that work is being done to secure a location for the Southwest Branch. She is hopeful that a location will be secured prior to the September meeting.

Committee appointments will be completed by the end of the month.

Trustee Hein-Wang spoke about the PR Committee, composed of stakeholders involved with the Central Library project (Omaha Public Library, Heritage Services, Board of Trustees, Friends, Foundation, City of Omaha, DoSpace, CIT). Meetings occur to discuss the input and PR side of the Central Library project, such as upcoming announcements, to ensure messages are disseminated widely and that all messaging is consistent across all audiences.

President Mullen welcomed the two newest Board members, Joseph Bradley and Mikki Frost.

13. **[Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)** – Meghan Hope, President

Meghan Hope, President of Friends of Omaha Public Library, provided an update via email.

14. **[Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)** – Wendy Townley, Executive Director

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

15. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Trustee Korf stated that more information will be shared at the Board orientation/training regarding Liaison assignments. She continued that she attended the Book Bash and it was a fantastic event.

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that her family frequently visits the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch and successfully finished the Summer Reading Challenge. She always enjoys the staff at the Branch.

Trustee Reddick went to the Charles B. Washington Branch and enjoyed seeing the many children visiting as well as the many businesses utilizing the space. He also spoke about how important all of the libraries are to members in the community.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

16. **[Finance Committee](#)** – Korf (Chair), Mullen, Wilson

Trustee Korf had nothing further to add.

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

Trustee Barrett had nothing further to add.

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

President Mullen had nothing further to add.

PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS

President Mullen 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.

19. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 19.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20. 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 Hein-Wang, SECOND by Korf, that the Meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Korf, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:19 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recoding Secretary

DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer