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**OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Willa Cather Branch – 1905 South 44th Street

**CALL TO ORDER**

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Willa Cather Branch, 1905 South 44th Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

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

**PRESENT:** Joseph Bradley  
Mikki Frost  
Cameron Gales (**Entered @ 5:04 P.M.**)  
Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Vice President  
Keegan Korf  
DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer  
Rochelle Mullen, President  
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

**ABSENT ENTIRE MEETING:** John Barrett  
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 September 15, 2023.

**BRANCH REPORT**

3. **Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branches**

Stacy Lickteig, Senior Manager of Branches, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

**TRUSTEE GALES ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:04 P.M.**

**DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION**

4. **Maggie Petersen, Outreach & Partnerships Manager**

Maggie Petersen, Outreach & Partnerships Manager, appeared and spoke. She highlighted work her department does and answered questions from Board members.

## **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 – August 16, 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 Hein-Wang, SECOND by Korf, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – August 16, 2023) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

### 6. **[Res. 2023-12 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2024](#)**

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

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

**MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2023-12 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2024) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

### 7. **[Res. 2023-13 Approval of Review of Library Materials and Resources Policy](#)**

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7. The following person appeared and spoke:

- E. C. Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street, Apt. 301

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

**MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2023-13 Approval of Review of Library Materials and Resources Policy) be tabled to October 18, 2023 and continue the public hearing.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

## **REPORTS**

8. **Director's Report** – Laura Marlane, Executive Director

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

9. **Advisory Committee Report** – Rochelle Mullen, Bryan Wilson

President Mullen stated that the next Advisory Committee meeting is being held on November 1.

- A. **PR Committee Report** – Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang

Trustee Hein-Wang appeared and spoke, stating that the next PR Committee meeting is being held tomorrow. Updates are continually added to the [Central Library website](#).

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

President Mullen appeared and spoke. She thanked Deputy City Attorney Michelle Peters for educating the Board on the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and FOIA requests. She added that they are continuing to look at potential sites for the Southwest Branch.

President Mullen has assigned Trustees to the following Committees:

- Finance Committee: Joseph Bradley (Chair); John Barrett; Rochelle Mullen
- Community Engagement Committee: DeJuan Reddick (Chair); Mikki Frost; Cameron Gales
- Facilities Committee: Rochelle Mullen (Chair); Jen Rae Hein-Wang; Bryan Wilson

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

Jeanne Spence, updating for Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, provided an update via attachment.

13. **Library Liaison Reports** – Library Trustees

Trustee Korf updated the liaison assignment for the Trustees.

She continued that effective September 30, 2023, she is resigning from the Board of Trustees.

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## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

14. **Finance Committee** – Bradley (Chair), Barrett, Mullen

Trustee Korf stated that the 2024 budget request was approved by the City Council.

15. **Community Engagement Committee** – Reddick (Chair), Frost, Gales

Trustee Reddick stated that he looks forward to continuing Trustee Barrett’s work, ensuring those branches and the communities they serve are engaged with and heard prior to any changes being enacted.

16. **Facilities Committee** – Mullen (Chair), Hein-Wang, Wilson

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.

17. **Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Mullen 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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Bradley, SECOND by Korf, that the Meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:09 P.M.**

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Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

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DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer