

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.
Saddlebrook Branch – 14850 Laurel Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at the Saddlebrook Branch, 14850 Laurel Avenue. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

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

PRESENT: John Barrett
Joseph Bradley
Mikki Frost
Cameron Gales
Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Vice President
DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer
Bryan Wilson
Rochelle Mullen, President
Laura Marlane, Executive Director, Omaha Public Library (Non-voting)

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 October 13, 2023.

BRANCH REPORT

3. **Julie Humphrey, Branch Manager**

Julie Humphrey, 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. **Rachel Steiner, Assistant Director reporting for the Marketing Department**

Rachel Steiner, Assistant Director, appeared and spoke for the Marketing Department. She highlighted work the 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 – September 20, 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 – September 20, 2023) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

6. **[Res. 2023-11 Approval of Library Executive Director class specification/job description](#)** *(over from 8/16/2023 and continue the public hearing)*

A. **[Amendment of the whole](#)**

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

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

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Wilson, that Agenda Item 6A (Res. 2023-11 Approval of Library Executive Director class specification/job description) Amendment of the whole be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

7. **[Res. 2023-13 Approval of Review of Library Materials and Resources Policy](#)** *(over from 9/20/2023 and continue the public hearing)*

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 Frost, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2023-13 Approval of Review of Library Materials and Resources Policy) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

REPORTS

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

Ms. Steiner, Assistant Director, appeared and spoke in place of Ms. Marlane, highlighting items from the report. She briefed the Board on upcoming events the Library is hosting throughout the community.

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

President Mullen appeared and spoke. She stated that the Building Stakeholder group last met on September 27 and were showing the latest renderings. These are available online for the public to view on the [Central Library's website](#). Regarding the Advisory Committee, two new members will be joining the Committee beginning on November 1 – County Commissioner Chris Rodgers and County Commissioner Chair Mary Ann Borgeson.

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

Trustee Hein-Wang appeared and spoke. She stated that the PR Committee met on October 12 and discussed Omaha Public Library Foundation's annual event "*Between the Lines*"; progress updates on the launch and promotion of Central Library's public campaign; and upcoming partner events. The PR group is planning ahead throughout the construction of the Central Library, looking for opportunities to share stories about the library itself as well as the impact that the new library will have on the community.

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

President Mullen appeared and spoke. She stated that she and Ms. Marlane met again regarding a potential Southwest Branch location site, as well as discussed a potential vendor for a café at the Central Library and what that vendor contract looks like.

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

None.

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

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

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

Trustee Bradley stated that he is meeting with his library this week. He has also been assigned to serve on the South Entity Library Board and will report back to the Board of Trustees quarterly.

Trustee Gales stated that he stopped and spoke with the staff at the Saddlebrook Branch and is a big fan of the branch t-shirts.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

None.

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

Trustee Reddick stated that the Committee had a chance to meet and they decided to change their goals or approach to community engagement. In the beginning, the goal was to engage and convince individuals to be early adopters of the new plan. Now they are looking at it and trying to take a bird's eye view, trying to get others to engage on a substantive level. The Committee is looking to outline their mission, their method, and their plan with everyone, ensuring when any Trustee goes to a library (as a Board member), there will be talking points to use to engage with patrons and staff.

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

President Mullen stated that the Facilities Committee has not met.

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.

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

President Mullen 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 Barrett, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:59 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary

DeJuan Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer