



# OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ South Omaha Library, 2808 Q St, Omaha, NE 68107

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at the South Omaha Library, 2808 Q Street. Vice President Hein-Wang called the meeting to order at 5:12 P.M.

Wendy Robinson took the Roll Call:

### ROLL CALL

#### Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, John Barrett, Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang - Vice President, DeJuan Reddick - Secretary-Treasurer

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

#### Absent:

Members: Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

## 2. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION - NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Vice President Hein-Wang 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 January 12, 2024.

## 3. BRANCH REPORT

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

## 4. [DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION](#)

Theresa Jehlik, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager, appeared and spoke. She highlighted work the Department does and answered questions from Board members.

### ACTION ITEMS

Vice President Hein-Wang 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.

Vice President Hein-Wang stated that public comment and Board approval is today.

5. [Approval of minutes - October 18, 2023](#)

***(Over from 11/15/2023 and continue the public hearing)***

Vice President Hein-Wang opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 5. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

**MOTION by Frost, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - October 18, 2023) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Gales, Hein-Wang, Reddick

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

6. [Res. 2023-14 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase for 2024](#)

***(Over from 11/15/2023 and continue the public hearing)***

Vice President Hein-Wang 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 Arriaga, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2023-14 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase for 2024) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Gales, Hein-Wang, Reddick

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**REPORTS**

7. [Director's Report](#)

Laura Marlane, Executive Director, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

8. **Advisory Committee Report (Presenters: Rochelle Mullen, Bryan Wilson)**

None. (No Advisory Committee meeting has occurred since the last OPL Board meeting)

9. **PR Committee Report (Presenters: Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang)**

Trustee Gales stated that the PR Committee met January 11 to discuss the construction process and the Capital Campaign. The group continues to meet monthly. A private beam signing will be held with project partners and supporters.

**10. Board President Report (Presenters: Rochelle Mullen)**

Vice President Hein-Wang thanked Trustee Maria Arriaga for joining the Board. Trustee Arriaga shared a brief background about herself and stated how she is excited to share the Library's resources with her community.

Board committees are to meet prior to the February Board meeting and make one (1) or more goals for 2024. At the February Board meeting, the committee chairs will report out the goals to everyone.

In 2026, the Omaha Public Library Foundation (OPLF) Board will merge with the Community Information Trust (CIT) Board. Consultants are currently being interviewed to help with this exciting transition.

**11. [Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)**

E. C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from the report.

**12. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)**

Wendy Townley, Executive Director, appeared and spoke via Zoom, highlighting items from her report.

**13. Library Liaison Reports**

Trustee Reddick stated that he visited the Willa Cather Branch, where he spoke to patrons and the common concern of parking came up.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**14. [Finance Committee \(Presenters: Joseph Bradley, John Barrett, Rochelle Mullen\)](#)**

None.

**15. Community Engagement Committee (Presenters: DeJuan Reddick, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales)**

Trustee Reddick thanked the Committee and Board for their patience and support. He stated that this Committee has come up with goals for 2024 and they are excited for what this year will bring.

**16. Facilities Committee (Presenters: Rochelle Mullen, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Bryan Wilson)**

Vice President Hein-Wang stated that the Committee has not had a recent meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS**

Vice President Hein-Wang 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**

Vice President Hein-Wang opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 17. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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 Arriaga, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Gales, Hein-Wang, Reddick

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:44 P.M.**