



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Benson Branch, 6015 Binney St, Omaha, NE 68104

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the Benson Branch, 6015 Binney Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

Jenna L. Garcia took the Roll Call:

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Bryan Wilson

2. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION - NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

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 March 15, 2024.

3. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Jason Goossen, IT Services Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting work his Department does and answering questions from Board members.

4. BRANCH REPORT

Jennifer Jazyuka, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared important facts about the Branch and its patrons, 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. President Mullen stated that public comment and Board approval is today.

5. [Approval of minutes - January 17, 2024](#)

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 - January 17, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

6. [Res. 2024-01 Approval of purchase of property by the City of Omaha for the purpose of constructing a new SW Library](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 6. Marco Floreani, Deputy Chief of Staff of Economic Development, appeared and spoke. No one else spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2024-01 Approval of purchase of property by the City of Omaha for the purpose of constructing a new SW Library) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

7. [Res. 2024-02 Approval of 2024 budget request with funding sources](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Barrett, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2024-02 Approval of 2024 budget request with funding sources) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

8. [Res. 2024-03 Approval of potential temporary closing\(s\) for HVAC work at Milton R. Abrahams Branch](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 8.
No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Arriaga, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 8 (Res. 2024-03 Approval of potential temporary closing(s) for HVAC work at Milton R. Abrahams Branch) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

9. [Res. 2024-04 Approval of Public Filming, Photography, and Recording Policy](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 9.

E. C. Schroeder, 621 South 15th Street, appeared and spoke.

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

MOTION by Frost, SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 9 (Res. 2024-04 Approval of Public Filming, Photography, and Recording Policy) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, President Mullen

Nays: Reddick

MOTION APPROVED 6-1

REPORTS

10. [Director's Report](#)

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

11. [Advisory Committee Report](#)

President Mullen highlighted items from her report.

12. PR Committee Report

Vice President Hein-Wang stated the following:

- The **PR Action Committee** met on March 14th and discussed construction progress, the beam signing event, and how to continue to promote the public capital campaign.
- The group also discussed the upcoming call for local art for Central Library, made in conjunction with Omaha nonprofit Amplify Arts. All partners provided ideas on how to best publicize the call for art, which is scheduled to happen in late April/early May.
- The PR Action Committee continues to meet monthly to look for opportunities to share stories about the library itself and the impact the library will have on the community.

13. Board President Report

President Mullen stated that the Advisory Board generally meets weekly.

While every committee wants to be involved highly involved, the Board of Trustees is a governing board. President Mullen will work with the different committees to draft a charter or some sort of structure of what is needed or expected.

President Mullen shared an example from the Oak Park Public Library entitled, "[Library Board Member Goal Sheet](#)". She encourages the members to review the goals and provide feedback.

14. [Friends of Omaha Public Library](#)

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

- Friends of OPL Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 13 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Millard Branch, 13214 Westwood Lane
- Friends of OPL Virginia Frank Writing Contest Celebration - Sunday, April 21 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Community Engagement Center, 6400 South University Drive Road North

15. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

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

16. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Reddick visited the Willa Cather Branch, as well as the A.V. Sorensen Branch. He engaged with staff and patrons.

Trustee Bradley visited the Benson Branch and connected with staff and patrons as well.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Bradley stated that the Finance Committee will be working on a charter for the committee.

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

Trustee Reddick stated that the Community Engagement Committee will be working on a charter for the committee, and will temporarily hold off on engagement at the branches until the fall.

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

President Mullen stated that they have not had a recent meeting. They will be working on a charter for the committee.

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.

20. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 20. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

21. 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 Reddick, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:24 P.M.