



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Charles B Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Ave, Omaha, NE 68111

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at the Charles. B. Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Avenue. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, John Barrett, Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales, DeJuan Reddick - Secretary-Treasurer, Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Jen Rae Hein-Wang - Vice President

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 April 12, 2024.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Amy Wenzl, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Nancy Novotny, Program Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting work her Department does and answering questions from Board members.

5. CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Short Takes for Trustees" by the American Library Association

Theresa Jehlik, Strategy and Intelligence Business Manager, appeared and spoke, having the Trustees watch a video entitled, "What It Means to Be a Trustee", and leading the Trustees in a group discussion around said video.

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.

6. [Approval of minutes - March 20, 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 (Approval of minutes - March 20, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Gales, Reddick, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

REPORTS

7. [Director's Report](#)

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

8. [Advisory Committee Report](#)

President Mullen stated that the Advisory Committee did not meet this month, but is scheduled to meet next month.

9. **PR Committee Report**

Trustee Gales did not have anything to report.

10. Board President Report

President Mullen stated that both she and Laura attended a Task Force meeting related to the Community Information Trust merger with Omaha Public Library Foundation. A consultant has been hired to aid in the process as well as the legal documents. President Mullen continued that she attended Friends of Omaha Public Library Annual meeting the previous weekend at the Millard Branch. Work is being done with Michelle Peters, Assistant City Attorney, to create Committee Charters for the Board's Committees.

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

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke. The Annual meeting was held the previous weekend at the Millard Branch. The Virginia Frank Writing Contest Celebration is this Sunday, April 21 at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center at 2:00 P.M. The Friends Board is reviewing and updating their by-laws, and will review their budget at their May meeting in preparation for the Fall. Everyone is encouraged to become a member of Friends of Omaha Public Library.

12. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

Wendy Townley, Executive Director, was unable to attend but sent in the Foundation's report.

13. Library Liaison Reports

Joe Bradley visited the Benson Branch on April 1 when the Library was checking out zoo passes to patrons. There was a line out the door, and everyone was excited.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

14. [Finance Committee](#)

(Presenters: Joseph Bradley, John Barrett, Rochelle Mullen)

Trustee Bradley stated that the Finance Committee met and discussed a different variation of the financial reports be prepared for the meetings. He would like to see something that is broader and that the public can understand, more transparent and user friendly.

President Mullen is asking that Library staff meet with the Committee quarterly to highlight items on the budget to look at.

The Committee will also be working on a charter.

15. Community Engagement Committee

(Presenters: DeJuan Reddick, Maria Arriaga, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales)

Trustee Reddick stated that the Community Engagement Committee did not meet, as they discussed their goals last time and are now finalizing their Committee charter.

16. Facilities Committee

(Presenters: Rochelle Mullen, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Bryan Wilson)

President Mullen stated that the Facilities Committee will meet this month and bring a Committee charter to the full Board next month.

PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS

Trustee 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.

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 Bradley, SECOND by Arriaga, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Barrett, Bradley, Frost, Gales, Wilson

Nays: Reddick, President Mullen

MOTION APPROVED 6-2

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:05 P.M.