



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Downtown Branch, 1401 Jones Street, Omaha, NE 68102

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the Downtown Branch, 1401 Jones Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:16 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Joseph Bradley, Cameron Gales (**Entered @ 5:26 P.M.**), Mikki Frost, Jen Rae Hein-Wang - Vice President, Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Maria Arriaga, John Barrett, DeJuan Reddick - Secretary-Treasurer

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 May 10, 2024.

PRESIDENT MULLEN MOVES AGENDA ITEMS 5-6 AND 9

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 - April 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 Hein-Wang, SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - April 17, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

6. [Res. 2024-05 Approval of potential temporary closing for building maintenance at Saddlebrook Branch](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 6.
No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Wilson, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2024-05 Approval of potential temporary closing for building maintenance at Saddlebrook Branch) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

9. [PR Committee Report](#)

Trustee Hein-Wang provided an update for the PR Committee. All of the information regarding the Call for Art is available on the [Central Library's website](#).

TRUSTEE HEIN-WANG LEFT THE MEETING @ 5:23 P.M.

TRUSTEE GALES ENTERED THE MEETING @ 5:26 P.M.

3. **BRANCH REPORT**

Natalie Struecker, 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](#)

Amy Mather, Partnerships Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work her Department does and answering questions from Board members.

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 met on May 8, and both herself and Trustee Wilson attended the meeting.

KETV clips:

- ["Construction workers celebrate 'topping out' new Omaha Public Library"](#), KETV. May 3, 2024
- [Critical Mention](#)

ASRS testing

President Mullen added that she attended a merger meeting with Community Information Trust and Omaha Public Library.

President Mullen stated that she is asking that the Board be looking at the future about five (5) years down the road, planning for the future with all of the facilities projects and changes coming up.

10. Board President Report

President Mullen stated that she and Ms. Marlane have a meeting with City officials next week regarding the Pro Forma.

1. Board Officer election to occur at the June 26 meeting

11. Friends of Omaha Public Library

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke.

12. Omaha Public Library Foundation

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke. She stated that the [Foundation's annual fundraiser](#) will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at Creighton University's Harper Center. The best-selling author Tommy Orange will headline the event.

13. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Wilson stated that he visited the Saddlebrook Branch and spoke with the Manager, to check-in.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

14. Finance Committee

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

None.

15. Community Engagement Committee

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

None.

16. Facilities Committee

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

President Mullen asked that all Committees finalize their charters for the June meeting.

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Bradley, Frost, Gales, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:14 P.M.