



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Milton R Abrahams Branch, 5111 N 90th St, Omaha, NE 68134

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at the Milton R. Abrahams Branch, 5111 North 90th Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang - Vice President, DeJuan Reddick - Secretary-Treasurer, Bryan Wilson (**Entered @ 5:31 P.M.**), Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: John Barrett

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 June 21, 2024.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Katy Lofgren, 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

Jessica Johnson, Borrower Services Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work that her Department does and answering questions from Board members.

PRESIDENT MULLEN MOVES AGENDA ITEMS 6-8

REPORTS

6. [Director's Report](#)

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

7. Advisory Committee Report

President Mullen stated that the Advisory Committee last met on May 8. The construction for the Central Library is on track, and is expected to open in 2026.

8. PR Committee Report

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that over 240 applications came in related to the Call for Art with the Central Library.

TRUSTEE WILSON ENTERED THE MEETING @ 5:31 P.M.

ACTION ITEM

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 - May 15, 2024](#)

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

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Frost, that Agenda Item 8 (Approval of minutes - May 15, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

REPORTS

9. Board President Report

President Mullen stated that a lot has occurred in the past year related to the Library Board and Omaha Public Library as a whole. The City of Omaha and Douglas County are supportive of Omaha Public Library and the Central Library project.

It is John Barrett's last Board meeting, and he has been a valuable Trustee.

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

None.

11. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke. Ms. Townley stated the [annual Foundation fundraiser](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18 at Creighton University's Harper Center, featuring best-selling author Tommy Orange.

12. **Library Liaison Reports**

Trustee Reddick stated that he visited the A.V. Sorensen Branch, sparking questions around the community center partnership.

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that she visited with Assistant Branch Managers at both the Downtown Branch and the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. [Finance Committee](#)

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

None.

14. **Community Engagement Committee**

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

None.

15. **Facilities Committee**

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

None.

ACTION ITEM

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.

16. Res. 2024-06 Election and approval of Board Officers

A. Election of Secretary-Treasurer of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

- Mikki Frost - 8 votes

Trustee Frost elected Secretary-Treasurer, receiving 8 votes.

B. Election of Vice President of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

- DeJuan Reddick - 5 votes
- Jen Rae Hein-Wang - 3 votes

Trustee Reddick elected Vice President, receiving 5 votes.

C. Election of President of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees.

- Rochelle Mullen - 6 votes
- Others - 2 votes

Trustee Mullen elected President, receiving 6 votes.

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.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:25 P.M.