



# OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, 2100 Reading Plaza, Elkhorn, NE 68022

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, 2100 Reading Plaza. 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 (**Entered @ 5:02 P.M.**), Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost, Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang - Vice President, DeJuan Reddick - Secretary-Treasurer (**Entered @ 5:04 P.M.**), 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 August 16, 2024.

### TRUSTEE ARRIAGA ENTERED THE MEETING @ 5:02 P.M.

#### PRESENTATION

Trustee Hein-Wang presented outgoing Trustee John Barrett with a gift from the Board of Trustees. Trustee Barrett thanked everyone for the gift and kind words, expressing his admiration for the Board members and Library staff. Board members offered well wishes to Trustee Barrett.

### TRUSTEE ARRIAGA ENTERED THE MEETING @ 5:04 P.M.

## 3. BRANCH REPORT

Casey Kralik, 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

Courtnei Kopietz, Marketing Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work that her Department does and answering 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 - June 26, 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 Frost, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - June 26, 2024) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

### 6. [Res. 2024-07 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2025](#)

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 Arriaga, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2024-07 Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for 2025) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

### 7. [Res. 2024-08 Approval of 2025 budget request](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7.

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

**MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2024-08 Approval of 2025 budget request) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

## REPORTS

### 8. [Director's Report](#)

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

### 9. **Advisory Committee Report**

President Mullen stated that the Advisory Committee met on August 2. She stated that there are 11 different task force subcommittees within the Advisory Committee, working to get the Central Library open and DoSpace integrated within Omaha Public Library. She added that she is the Chair, or President, of the Advisory Committee.

Omaha Public Library Foundation signed a merger agreement with Community Information Trust.

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

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that she and Trustee Gales attended PR Committee meetings on July 11 and August 8. 242 applications came in with the call for public art, and the group is still reviewing applications. Those chosen should be notified by late September.

### 11. **Board President Report**

President Mullen stated that she has met with City and County leaders to talk about the increase in the County's contribution of money to Omaha Public Library.

The Board Executive Team met on July 24, and President Mullen shared updates and timelines.

If anyone would like to be reassigned to different Board Committee, please let President Mullen know within the next two (2) weeks.

The Board is hoping to have a new member appointed to the Board by the next meeting.

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

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke. Mr. Schroeder stated that the Friends does not meet in the summer, but a report regarding the book sales was provided.

### 13. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke via Zoom. Ms. Townley stated that the Foundation's annual fundraiser *Between the Lines with Tommy Orange* is on Wednesday, September 18. Visit [omahalibraryfoundation.org](http://omahalibraryfoundation.org) for more information.

**14. Library Liaison Reports**

Trustee Bradley stated that he received a positive comment from a patron regarding story times.

Trustee Gales visited the Saddlebrook Branch.

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that she continues to visit the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, and continues to receive great service.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**15. [Finance Committee](#)  
(Presenters: Joseph Bradley, Rochelle Mullen)**

President Mullen discussed and shared the [Pro Forma 2023-2026](#) report with the Board. This report was accepted and endorsed by the Board of Trustees on June 21, 2023.

President Mullen will Chair the Finance Committee moving forward, while Trustee Bradley will be moving to the Community Engagement Committee.

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

Trustee Reddick stated that the Community Engagement Committee did not meet, but there has been a lot of discussion happening at the City Council regarding Central Library and Southwest Library. He recommends that any Board members able attend the Stakeholder meeting on August 28.

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

President Mullen stated that the Facilities Committee did not meet. She stated that the Executive Committee will meet and look at revisions to the Board by-laws to decide if Standing Committees are needed.

**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.

**18. Input, Comments, and Questions**

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 18.

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

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 7-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:22 P.M.**