



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ A.V. Sorensen Branch, 4808 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68132

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at the A.V. Sorensen Branch, 4808 Cass Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga (**Entered @ 5:08 P.M.**), Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost - Secretary, Jen Rae Hein-Wang (**Entered @ 5:08 P.M.**), DeJuan Reddick - Vice President, Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Cameron Gales

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. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on September 20, 2024.

3. BRANCH REPORT

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

TRUSTEES ARRIAGA AND HEIN-WANG ENTERED THE MEETING @ 5:08 P.M.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Maggie Petersen, Outreach Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work that her Department does and answering questions from Board members.

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 - August 21, 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 Wilson, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - August 21, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

6. [Director's Report](#)

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

7. **Advisory Committee Report**

None.

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

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met on September 12 and discussed the construction progress, announcements, and partnerships related to the Central Library. She continued that all Board members are invited to go on a hard-hat tour.

9. **Board President Report**

President Mullen stated that the work continues with the merger of Community Information Trust and Omaha Public Library Foundation.

10. **Friends of Omaha Public Library**

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke, providing a break update.

11. Omaha Public Library Foundation

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

12. Library Liaison Reports

None.

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.

13. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 13. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

14. 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, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Reddick, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:51 P.M.

/s/ Mikki Frost

Mikki Frost, Secretary

/s/ Jenna L. Garcia

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary