



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 West Dodge Road, Omaha, NE 68114

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at the W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 West Dodge Road. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost - Secretary, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, 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 October 16, 2024.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Matt Couch, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. He shared important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Ben Brick, Collection Processing Manager, and Deirdre Routt, Collection Development Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work that their Departments do and answered 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 - September 25, 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 Arriaga, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - September 25, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

6. [Res. 2024-09 Approval of temporary closing for facility work at Bess Johnson Elkhorn 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. 2024-09 Approval of temporary closing for facility work at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

7. [Director's Report](#)

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

8. Advisory Committee Report

Trustees Frost and Wilson visited the Central Library site today, taking a tour and seeing the progress made.

9. PR Committee Report

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met on October 10. The Committee continues to discuss the Public Art submissions and the selection/finalization process of the submissions. The Committee is also exploring media tours to take place after the General Election on November 5.

10. Board President Report

President Mullen stated that there is an Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Friday.

President Mullen continued that proposed [Committee Charters](#) for each of the Standing Committees have been distributed. Feedback regarding these Charters should be sent to President Mullen, and there will be an open discussion surrounding the adoption of these Committee Charters at the next meeting. The goal of these Charters is to set a foundation around the make-up of each Committee, the frequency of meetings, the responsibilities of the Committee, and the overall purpose or goal of the Committee.

11. Friends of Omaha Public Library

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke. Mr. Schroeder stated that the next Friends Board meeting is scheduled for October 28. The 2024 National Friends of Libraries Week is October 20-26.

12. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

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

13. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Bradley proposed that "Super Users" be recognized with a distinct shirt. He stated that he regularly visits the Benson Branch during the week.

Trustee Hein-Wang visited the Downtown Branch and spoke with the Manager about their programming and increase in patron attendance. She also checked in at both the Bess Johnson Elkhorn and Saddlebrook Branches.

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.

14. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 14. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

15. 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 Bradley, 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 5:54 P.M.

/s/ Mikki Frost

Mikki Frost, Secretary

/s/ Jenna L. Garcia

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary