



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Florence Branch, 2920 Bondesson Street, Omaha, NE 68112

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at the Florence Branch, 2920 Bondesson Street. 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, Cameron Gales, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, DeJuan Reddick - Vice President, Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

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 November 15, 2024.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Jeff McWhorter, Senior Manager of Branches, appeared and spoke. He shared important information about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Sam Emerine, Facilities Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work their 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 - October 16, 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 Hein-Wang, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - October 16, 2024) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

6. [Res. 2024-10 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase 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 Bradley, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2024-10 Approval of Library Executive Director's compensation increase for 2025) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 8-0

REPORTS

7. [Director's Report](#)

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

8. Advisory Committee Report

President Mullen gave a brief update on the [Central Library](#). The [Omaha World-Herald](#) ran a brief story on November 15 about the construction progress. She stated that the Advisory Committee met on October 18.

9. PR Committee Report

Trustee Hein-Wang mentioned the [Omaha World-Herald](#) story that ran on November 15. The PR Committee met on November 14 and discussed the construction progress. Of the 242 artists who applied to the Central Library's call for public art, 16 artists were selected. The details are available on the [Central Library's website](#).

10. Board President Report

President Mullen stated she and Ms. Marlane have designated Trustees Hein-Wang and Reddick to be the Douglas County Liaisons for the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees, with the hope that the Liaisons can attend County Commissioners' meetings twice a year to give updates. They will attend the County Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, January 28.

She added that work on the proposed Board Committee Charters continues, and she anticipates that the Board will vote to approve the Committee Charters at the Board's January meeting.

President Mullen continued, stating that she has not heard from Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications, Carrie Murphy, regarding filling the vacant seat on the Board of Trustees.

The Board will go into Executive Session at their January meeting to discuss Ms. Marlane's review.

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

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from his report.

12. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

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

13. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Frost stated that her book club took advantage of the [Library's Book Club Bags](#) at their last meeting.

Trustee Arriaga stated that she really enjoys the [Library's Spanish podcast, Libroteca](#), and she has been sharing it with her contacts.

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 Reddick, 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 5:33 P.M.

Mikki Frost, Secretary

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary