



OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

@ Downtown Branch, 1401 Jones St, Omaha, NE 68102

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the Downtown Branch, 1401 Jones Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

Jenna Garcia took the Roll Call:

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost – Secretary, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Cecil Hicks Jr., DeJuan Reddick - Vice President, 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 April 11, 2025.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Natalie Stuecker, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She discussed important facts about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Jason Goossen, Technology Services Manager, appeared and spoke. He highlighted work the Department does 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 - March 26, 2025

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 5. No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Arriaga, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes – March 26, 2025) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Reddick, Mullen

Nays: None

Abstains: Frost

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

6. Res. 2025-05 Approval of two (2)-day temporary closure at Saddlebrook Branch for floor refinishing

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 Hicks, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2025-05 Approval of two (2)-day temporary closure at Saddlebrook Branch for floor refinishing) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Reddick, 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 (Presenters: Rochelle Mullen, DeJuan Reddick)

None. (No Advisory Committee meeting has occurred since the last OPL Board meeting)

9. PR Committee Report (Presenters: Jen Rae Hein-Wang)

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met once since the last OPL Board meeting. The groups discussed the construction process and the activities and events the group is planning before opening.

10. Building Stakeholders Committee Report (Presenters: Jen Rae Hein-Wang, DeJuan Reddick, Bryan Wilson)

Trustee Hein-Wang stated the group did a walkthrough of the Central Library. She highlighted things that have been installed since the last time the group walked through the space in Oct 2024. Trustee Reddick mentioned how, when inside the new library, the outside sounds are minimal.

11. Friends of Omaha Public Library

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

12. Omaha Public Library Foundation

Wendy Townley, Executive Director, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

13. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Reddick stated that he visited the Washington Branch, to see the excitement for the summer programs that are coming up.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

14. Finance Committee (Presenters: Cecil L. Hicks, Jr. (Chair), Mikki Frost, Rochelle Mullen)

Trustee Hicks reported the committee met once since the last OPL Board meeting. The group would like to do more board education around budgets and finance.

15. Community Engagement Committee (Presenters: Joe Bradley (Chair), Maria Arriaga, Mikki Frost)

Trustee Bradley reported the committee has not met but will get a meeting lined up by next OPL Board meeting.

16. Facilities Committee (Presenters: DeJuan Reddick (Chair), Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Bryan Wilson)

Trustee Reddick reported the committee has not met yet but plan on meeting before the next OPL Board meeting.

17. Board President Report (Presenters: Rochelle Mullen)

President Mullen said she appreciated all the work that is going into the planning for Central.

She talked about the budget and Pro Forma and the funding pathways laid out in that plan. She said the city and county has really stepped up to meet the anticipated need in growing that budget and the city has been supportive in adding more positions to the library to prepare for the opening of Central in 2026.

There will be a formal review of the Executive Director and all the board members should have received a form to fill out.

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

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Reddick, Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.