

# **January OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes**

Omaha Public Library

1/15/2025 5:00 PM

@ Charles B. Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Avenue, Omaha, NE 68111

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at the Charles B. Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Avenue. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:01 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, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

#### **Absent:**

Members: Cameron Gales, 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. The Library certified [publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on January 10, 2025.

## **3. BRANCH REPORT**

Amy Wenzl, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared important information about the Branch and its patrons, and answered questions from Board members.

## **4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION**

Nancy Novotny, Program Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work 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 their 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 - November 20, 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 Reddick, SECOND by Hein-Wang, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - November 20, 2024) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

6. [Res. 2025-01 Approval of 2025 budget request with funding sources](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 6.

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

**MOTION by Arriaga, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2025-01 Approval of 2025 budget request with funding sources) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

7. [Res. 2025-02 Approval of Board of Trustees' Committee Charters](#)

7.A. [Res. 2025-02 Approval of Revised Board Committee Charters](#)

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

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

**MOTION by Frost, SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 7A (Res. 2025-02 Approval of Revised Board of Trustees' Committee Charters) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

## 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 meets quarterly and will meet again next month.

### 10. [PR Committee Report](#)

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met on January 9th.

She continued that there was a [media](#) hard-hat tour on January 14th with seven or eight members of the media present, and the building is now fully enclosed.

The Call for Public Art [Meet & Greet: Conversations with the Artists of Central Library](#) is on Sunday, January 26th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Downtown Branch. More information about the artists can be found on the [Omaha Central Library's website](#).

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

President Mullen stated that Trustee Gales resigned from the Board of Trustees today (January 15th).

She continued that new Board Committee assignments will be coming out soon and the Committees will be reactivated.

### 12. **Friends of Omaha Public Library**

E.C. Schroeder, Secretary of Friends of Omaha Public Library, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from his report. He stated that the Friends had a successful brainstorming session in November.

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

Wendy Townley, Executive Director of Omaha Public Library Foundation, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report. She stated that the Foundation is wrapping up 2024.

### 14. **Library Liaison Reports**

Trustee Reddick stated that he visited the South Omaha Library, noting the high computer usage at the branch. He also visited the Willa Cather Branch and spoke to some patrons who were passionate about eBooks.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 15. **Finance Committee**

None.

**16. Community Engagement Committee**

None.

**17. Facilities Committee**

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.

**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 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, President Mullen

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 6-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:03 P.M.**

/s/ Mikki Frost

Mikki Frost, Secretary

/s/ Jenna L. Garcia

Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary