March OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library
3/26/2025 5:00 PM
@ Florence Branch, 2920 Bondesson Street, Omaha, NE 68112

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at the Florence Branch, 2920 Bondesson Street. 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 **(Arrived @ 5:02 P.M.)**, Joseph Bradley, Cecil Hicks, DeJuan Reddick - Vice President, Bryan Wilson, Rochelle Mullen - President

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Mikki Frost - Secretary, Jen Rae Hein-Wang

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 March 24, 2025.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Lori Nelson, 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

Jessica Johnson, Borrower Services 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 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 - January 15, 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 Wilson, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - January 15, 2025) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hicks, Reddick, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

6. Res. 2025-03 Approval of temporary closing for facility work at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, and rescind Res. 2024-09

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 Bradley, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2025-03 Approval of temporary closing for facility at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, and rescind Res. 2024-09) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hicks, Reddick, Wilson, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

7. Res. 2025-04 Approval of temporary closing for facility work at Millard Branch
President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7.
No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.
MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Hicks, that Agenda Item 7 (Res. 2025-04 Approval of temporary closing for facility work at Millard Branch) be approved.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hicks, Reddick, Wilson, 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 - Central Library
None.

10. PR Committee Report - Central Library
None.

11. Building Stakeholders Committee Report - Central Library
None.

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

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's Annual Fundraiser, *Between the Lines,* will be held on Tuesday, October 14th. More information regarding the event will be coming out soon.

14. Library Liaison Reports
Trustee Bradley provided an update about the Benson Branch.
Trustee Arriaga provided an update about the South Omaha Library.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

15. Finance Committee
Cecil L. Hicks, Jr. (Chair), Mikki Frost, Rochelle Mullen
Library Liaison: Wendy Robinson
None.

16. Community Engagement Committee

Joe Bradley (Chair), María Arriaga, Mikki Frost
Library Liaison: Stacy Lickteig
None.

17. Facilities Committee

DeJuan Reddick (Chair), Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Bryan Wilson
Library Liaison: Elizabeth Johnson
None.

18. Board President Report

President Mullen provided an update on the Board Committees and its' members.

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.

19. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 19.
No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

20. 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 Hicks, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hicks, Reddick, Wilson, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED 6-0
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:49 P.M.

/s/ Mikki Frost
Mikki Frost, Secretary

/s/ Jenna L. Garcia
Jenna L. Garcia, Recording Secretary