

# May OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 W Dodge Rd, Omaha, NE 68114

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 W Dodge Rd. Vice President Reddick called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm

Rachel Steiner, Recording Secretary, took the Roll Call:

### ROLL Call

#### Present:

Members: Joseph Bradley, Mikki Frost, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Cecil Hicks, DeJuan Reddick

Guests: Laura Marlane

#### Absent:

Members: Maria Arriaga, Rochelle Mullen, Bryan Wilson

## 2. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION - NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Vice President Reddick stated that the meeting is held in accordance with the [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#), a copy of which is available. The Library [certified publication](#) of the meeting in the Daily Record, the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on May 19, 2025.

## 3. BRANCH REPORT

Matt Couch, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. He shared information about the branch and its patrons and answered questions from the board.

## 4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Deirdre Routt, Collection Development Manager, and Ben Brick, Collection Processing Manager, appeared and spoke. They highlighted the work each of their departments does for the library and answered questions from the Board members.

### ACTION ITEMS

*Vice President Reddick 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. Vice President Reddick stated that public comment and Board approval is today.*

5. [Approval of minutes - April 16, 2025](#)

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

**MOTION by Bradley, SECOND by Hicks, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - April 16, 2025) be approved.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

REPORTS

6. [Director's Report](#)

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

7. **Advisory Committee Report**

Vice President Reddick stated that the Advisory Committee met on May 1. He reported that they had updates on Central Library and the activities and events being planned for pre-opening.

8. **PR Committee Report**

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met on May 15th. She reported that they had construction updates and are working on mapping out a storytelling plan for the opening of Central Library.

9. **Building Stakeholders Committee Report**

None.

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

None.

11. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

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

12. **Library Liaison Reports**

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that she visited Downtown Branch, Elkhorn Branch, and Saddlebrook Branch.

Trustee Bradley stated that he visited Benson Branch and reported that the branch would like to consider putting a bench on the property where a tree was removed. Vice President Reddick stated that the construction next to the Willa Cather branch is finished, so hopefully there is no more impact to that branch due to that construction.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **13. Finance Committee**

Trustee Hicks reported the committee did not meet in the last month. The committee is planning a training about finance for the board in the future.

### **14. Community Engagement Committee**

Trustee Bradley reported that the committee has been meeting to review library policies before they go to the board for approval later this year.

### **15. Facilities Committee**

Vice President Reddick reported that the committee has a meeting scheduled for May 22.

### **16. Board President Report**

None.

## **PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS**

*Vice President Reddick 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.*

### **17. Input, Comments, and Questions**

Vice President Reddick opened the public comment period on Agenda Item 17. No one spoke, and the period was closed.

### **18. 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 Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees meeting be adjourned.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:14 P.M.**

/s/ Mikki Frost

Mikki Frost, Secretary

/s/ Rachel Steiner

Rachel Steiner , Recording Secretary