

June OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

6/18/2025 5:00 PM

@ South Omaha Library, 2808 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68107

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at the South Omaha Library, 2808 Q Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

Rachel Steiner, Recording Secretary, took the Roll Call:

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Guests: Laura Marlane - Executive Director

Absent:

Members: Maria Arriaga

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 June 16, 2025.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Anna Wilcoxon, Interim Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared information about South Omaha Library and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Sam Emerine, Facilities 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 - May 21, 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 Reddick, SECOND by Hicks, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - May 21, 2025) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: President Mullen

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

6. [Res. 2025 - 06 Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Douglas County](#)

President Mullen ask City Attorney Tim Dolan to address the board and give an overview of the agreement.

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 Wilson, that Agenda Item 6 (Res. 2025 - 06 Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Douglas County) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

President Mullen stated that the Advisory Committee meets quarterly and will meet again next month. She presented updates on the Central Library construction updates provided by Heritage Omaha.

9. PR Committee Report

Trustee Hein-Wang stated that the PR Committee met in June and they continue to talk about ways to tell the story of Central Library o the public prior to its opening next year.

10. Board President Report

President Mullen asked that this item be moved to the end of the reports so was addressed after item 16. She reported that there are many groups meeting for the Central Library project. She said she would like to get the Board to see the space again this fall. She thanked many people for all their hard work and accomplishments over the past months. She also reported that the OPLF and CIT merger is still in the works and those meetings are happening regularly.

11. Friends of Omaha Public Library

None.

12. [Omaha Public Library Foundation](#)

None.

13. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Reddick stated that he has heard from community members on how much Elkhorn community members are liking the new pickup lockers. He said others in the community also want to know if their branch will be getting them. Trustee Bradley stated that community members are reaching out to him to express their excitement about the new Central Library.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

14. [Finance Committee](#)

Trustee Hicks reported that budget training for the Board is still in the works.

15. Community Engagement Committee

Trustee Bradley reported that the committee has met with Rachel to continue to review the library policies that will be presented to the board later this year.

16. Facilities Committee

Trustee Reddick reported that the committee has met and are working on creating a list of recommendations to bring to the board.

BOARD ELECTION

17. Res. 2025 - 07 Election and Approval of Library Board Officers

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 17.

President Mullen recommended that the current slate of board officers be renewed for another term. She opened the floor for anyone else would like to nominate themselves or others for consideration. No one else was recommended.

MOTION by Bradley SECOND by Reddick, that the Board Officers for the next year will be Mullen as President, Reddick as Vice President, and Frost as Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.