

February OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

2/18/2026 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 February 18, 2026 at the South Omaha Library at 2808 Q Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:08. Julie Wetherell, Recording Secretary, took the Roll Call:

ROLL CALL

Attendance

Present:

Members: Maria Arriaga, Joseph Bradley, Jen Rae Hein-Wang, Cecil Hicks, Clarice Jackson, Dan Lonergan (remote, non-voting), Rochelle Mullen, DeJuan Reddick

Guests: Laura Marlane

Absent:

Members: Mikki Frost

2. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION - NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

This meeting has been advertised in the [Daily Record](#) the Official Newspaper of the City of Omaha, on February 16, 2026, and is held in accordance with the [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#). A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available on the table and on the wall.

3. BRANCH REPORT

Julie Humphrey, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared information about the history of the Branch, and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Amy Mather, Partnerships Manager & Maggie Petersen, Outreach Manager, appeared and spoke, highlighting the work with OPL's Podcast Book Drop and answering questions from Board members. They showed a slide presentation of some of their most popular podcasts.

ACTION ITEMS

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. Public comment and Board approval is today.

5. Approval of minutes

[January 21, 2026](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 5, the January 21, 2026 minutes. No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Arriaga, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - January 21, 2026) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

6. Director's Report

Laura Marlane, Executive Director, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report including the update that zoo passes are now available online.

[February 2026 Director's Report](#)

[Director's Report - Part 2](#)

7. Advisory Committee Report

President Mullen gave an update on the status of the Central Library.

8. 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 starting in April, there will be two Saturday book sales a month.

[February 2026 Friends Report #1](#)

[Friends Book Sale Report #2](#)

9. Omaha Public Library Foundation

Adrienne Perry, CEO, appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

[February 2026 Foundation Report](#)

10. Library Liaison Reports

Library Trustee Joseph Bradley stated that community members frequently ask him for updates on the Swanson Branch.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. Finance Committee

[February 2026 Finance Report](#)

None.

12. Community Engagement Committee

None.

13. Facilities Committee

None.

14. Board President Report

Rochelle Mullen, President, thanked OPL staff for their hard work on preparing for the opening of the Central Branch.

PUBLIC INPUT, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS

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.

15. Input, Comments, and Questions

16. 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, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Jackson, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:45 P.M