

January OPL Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library

1/21/2026 5:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at the Charles B. Washington Branch at 2868 Ames Avenue. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Julie Wetherell, Recording Secretary, took the Roll Call:

ROLL CALL

Attendance

Present:

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

Guests: Laura Marlane

Absent:

Members: Clarice Jackson, Dan Lonergan

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 January 19, 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

Anna Wilcoxon, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. She shared important information about the branch. She also answered questions from the Board.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Theresa Jehlik, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager, showed a slide presentation highlighting the work her department does.

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

[November 19, 2025](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 5, the November 19, 2025 minutes. No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Arriaga, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - November 19, 2025) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

6. Resolution 2026-01

[Approval of 2026 Budget](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 6. No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 6 (Approval of 2026 Budget) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

7. Resolution 2026-02

[Approval of Outdoor Spaces Policy](#)

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 Bradley, that Agenda Item 7 (Approval of Outdoor Spaces Policy) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

8. Resolution 2026-03

[Approval of Rental Spaces Policy](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 8. No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Frost, that Agenda Item 8 (Approval of Rental Spaces Policy) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

9. Resolution 2026-04

[Approval of Closure of Genealogy Room](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 9. No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 9 (Approval of Closure of Genealogy Room) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

REPORTS

10. Director's Report

[January 2026 Director's Report](#)

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

11. Advisory Committee Report

President Mullen appeared and gave an update on the Central Library project and noted that a new Associate Specialist position has been created as well.

12. Friends of Omaha Public Library

[January 2026 Friends Report](#)

Secretary, E.C. Schroeder, appeared and spoke. He announced that Mary Trecek is the new president and said they are exploring the possibility of having two book sales per month in the future.

13. Omaha Public Library Foundation

[January 2026 Foundation Report](#)

Adrienne Perry appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report. She noted the encouraging sign that the number of first-time donors is up.

14. Library Liaison Reports

Library Trustees

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

15. Finance Committee

[January 2026 Finance Report](#)

None

16. Community Engagement Committee

Joe Bradley spoke and said they are working on setting up their next meeting.

17. Facilities Committee

DeJuan Reddick spoke and stated there would be six meetings of the committee this year.

18. Board President Report

Rochelle Mullen appeared and spoke, highlighting items from her report.

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.

19. Input, Comments, and Questions

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.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION by Frost, SECOND by Reddick.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Frost.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hein-Wang, SECOND by Hicks, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:18 P.M