

May 2026 Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

5/20/2026 5:00 PM

@ Central Library, 7205 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68114

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the Central Library at 7502 Dodge Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

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 May 15, 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

Matt Couch, Branch Manager, appeared and spoke. He shared information about Central Library's first month of being open to the public and answered questions from Board members.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Wendy Robinson, Finance Manager, appeared and spoke. She highlighted how the library works with the Omaha Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Omaha Public Library to spend monies contributed by those organizations to support the library and answered questions from Board members.

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

[April 15, 2026 - Approval of Minutes](#)

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

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Reddick, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of minutes - April 15, 2026) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED: 7-0

6. Resolution 2026-05

[Approval of closing Friday mornings for staff development](#)

President Mullen recommended the Board table this resolution until the June Board Meeting.

MOTION by Reddick SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 6 (Approval of closing Friday mornings for staff development) be tabled until the June Board Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED: 7-0

7. Resolution 2026-06

[Approval of temporary closing for building maintenance at SK](#)

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 7.

No one spoke, and the public comment period was closed.

MOTION by Arriaga, SECOND by Frost, that Agenda Item 7 (Approval of temporary closing for building maintenance at SK) be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED: 7-0

REPORTS

8. Director's Report

Laura Marlane, Executive Director, appeared and spoke, highlighting items that are happening at Omaha Public Library and libraries across the United States.

9. Advisory Committee Report

None.

10. Friends of Omaha Public Library

None.

11. Omaha Public Library Foundation

Adrienne Perry, CEE, appeared and spoke about how the Foundation's fundraising efforts are looking for 2026, particularly on the impact opening Central Library has had on people's interest in supporting the library.

12. Library Liaison Reports

Trustee Hicks visited every Omaha Public Library location since the last Board Meeting to collect the library specific stickers OPL is handing out and added them to his OPL water bottle. He noted that the staff at every location was friendly, welcoming, and enthusiastic to help.

Trustee Bradley visited the Central Library last Sunday to attend the drumming program.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. Finance Committee

None.

14. Community Engagement Committee

None.

15. Facilities Committee

None.

16. Board President Report

President Mullen reminded the Board that elections for Officers at the June meeting and would like nominations put forth prior to the meeting. They should be submitted

to Laura Marlane by May 29th. She also mentioned that there will be resolutions presented at the next meeting that she will communicate about before that meeting so everyone has time to thoroughly read through everything prior to the meeting.

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.

17. Input, Comments, and Questions

President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 17. No one spoke, and the public comment 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 Bradley, SECOND by Arriaga, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED: 7-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55 PM