June Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Omaha Public Library
6/17/2026 5:00 PM
@ Central Library, 7205 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68114

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at the Central Library at 7205 Dodge Street. President Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Guests: Laura Marlane

Absent:
Members: Clarice Jackson

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 June 12, 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. DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATION

Courtni Kopietz, Marketing Manager and Karen Pietsch, Learning and Development Manager appeared and spoke. They highlighted the work their departments do and answered questions from the Board.

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.

MOTION by Hein Wang, SECOND by Frost, to move agenda item 15 to agenda item 5 (Resolution 2026 - 07 Election and Approval of Library Board Officers) be approved.

MOTION by Mullen to amend that motion, SECOND by Reddick, to move item 15 to agenda item 6 to be approved.

ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 8-0

4. Approval of minutes

May 20, 2026 - Approval of Minutes
President Mullen opened up the public comment period on Agenda Item 4.
No one spoke and the public comment period was closed.
MOTION by Hein Wang, SECOND by Hicks, that Agenda Item 4 (Approval of minutes - May 20, 2026) be approved.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 8-0

5. Resolution 2026-05

Approval of closing Friday mornings for staff development
A presentation regarding the resolution was shown and narrated by Stacy Lickteig, Senior Community Engagement Manager, and Jeff McWhorter, Senior Manager of Branches.
MOTION by Reddick, SECOND by Bradley, that Agenda Item 5 (Approval of closing Friday mornings for staff development) be approved.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 8-0

BOARD ELECTION

13. Resolution 2026 - 07 Election and Approval of Library Board Officers

MOTION by Hein-Wang to postpone election, SECOND by BRADLEY, due to the fact that Jackson was absent from the meeting and could not participate in the election of the board officers.

City Attorney, Matt Kuhse, advised that if the election was going to be postponed then the by-laws would have to be suspended as well.

MOTION by Hein Wang to suspend by-laws, SECOND by Arriaga, so the election of board officers could be postponed until August.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Hein-Wang, Hicks
Nays: Frost, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
MOTION DENIED: 4-4

President Mullen opened the discussion for the election of board officers by taking nomiintation for President. Hein-Wang stated she was interested in running for President and briefly stated her qualifications. President Mullen stated she was also interested in continuing her tenure as President.

City Attorney, Matt Kuhse, advised that if the board needs to decide and vote on the method for voting.

MOTION by Frost, SECOND by Reddick, that the Roll Call Vote method be used to conduct the elections.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 8-0

Hicks nominated Hein-Wang for President. President Mullen nominated herself.

ROLL CALL:
Mullen: Frost, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Hein-Wang: Arriaga, Bradley, Hein-Wang, Hicks

City Attorney, Matt Khuse, advised the board to use private ballet since the presidential election appeared dead locked.

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Arriaga, that the private ballot method be used to conduct the elections.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Bradley, Frost, Hein-Wang, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 8-0

BALLET RESULTS FOR PRESIDENT:
Mullen – 4
Hein-Wang – 3

Arriaga – 1
Mullen was announced as the winner.

Hein-Wang nominated Hicks for Vice President. President Mullen nominated Reddick.

BALLET RESULTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT:
Reddick - 6
Hicks - 2
Reddick was announced as the winner.

Reddick nominated Frost for Secretary/Treasurer. Hein-Wang nominated Jackson.

BALLET RESULTS FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER:
Frost - 5
Jackson - 1
Bradley - 1
Frost was announced as the winner.

REPORTS

6. 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.

7. Advisory Committee Report

None.

8. Friends of Omaha Public Library

None.

9. Omaha Public Library Foundation

Adrienne Perry, CEO, appeared and spoke about fundraising efforts for 2026.

10. Library Liaison Reports

Library Trustee, DeJuan Reddick, stated he had visited the Washington Branch and received positive feedback about Central Library.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. Finance Committee

None.

June 2026 Financial Report

12. Community Engagement Committee

Maria Arriaga gave an update on the activities of the committee.

14. Facilities Committee

DeJuan Reddick gave an update on the activites of the committee.

15. Board President Report

Rochelle Mullen, Board President, advised that the Board of Trustees page on the Library website would be updated with a group picture as well the current employers of the Board members.

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.

16. Input, Comments, and Questions

17. 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 by Reddick, SECOND by Lonergan, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees go into Executive Session.

ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen
Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 5-0
MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:58 PM

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hicks, SECOND by Reddick, that the meeting of the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees be adjourned.
ROLL CALL:
Yeas: Arriaga, Hicks, Lonergan, Reddick, President Mullen

Nays: None
MOTION APPROVED: 7-0
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:28 PM