

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: June 16, 2023
TO: Library Board, Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney
FROM: Ryan Wieber, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Anderson Branch Library
3635 Touzalin Ave
Lincoln, NE 68507

STARTING TIME OF MEETING: 6:00 p.m.
CHAIR OF MEETING: Dan Sloan, President
PURPOSE OF MEETING: Monthly Business Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Announcement of Open Meetings Law
2. Approval of Agenda*
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Approval of May 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes*
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Administration
 - i. Update on Vacancy Process
 - b. Committee on Buildings and Grounds
 - i. Update on South Branch Mural Project
 - c. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for May, 2023*
6. Special Committee Reports
 - a. Foundation Executive Director Report
7. New Business
 - a. Approval of Fees Policy*
 - b. Approval of Behavior Policy*
 - c. Approval of Public Comment Policy with Guidelines*
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Director's Report
11. Public Comment - Anyone wishing to address the board on a matter not on this agenda may do so at this time.

*Action Item

Proposed agenda kept continually current and available for inspection at the Administrative Office of the Bennett Martin Public Library. The Board shall have the right to modify the agenda at said public meeting when convened.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request. *Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska posted in meeting room.*

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Sloan, Rhonda Seacrest, Lisa Hale, Donna Marvin, Joe Shaw, Jackie Ostrowicki, Morgan Gerteisen, Nichole Bogen, present

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Dan Sloan noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He announced the Open Meetings Act was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Sloan noted that the Agenda and Meeting Notice were posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Sloan asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Shaw so moved. Seacrest seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Marvin, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Sloan noted that public comment is welcome and reviewed the public comment process for those attending. Jessica Wersky, 1330 N. 79th spoke on the topic of the Request for Reconsideration Appeal – asking the board to approve the appeal. President Sloan thanked her for taking the time to share her thoughts. Steve Smith, address not given, spoke on the topic of the Request for Reconsideration Appeal – asking the board to deny the appeal. President Sloan thanked him. There were no more comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

President Sloan noted the Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting had been submitted. Sloan asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Ostrowicki moved approval. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. Sloan asked for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Marvin, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Gerteisen – ABSTAIN. Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

President Sloan welcomed new Board Member, Morgan Gerteisen and asked her to introduce herself to the Board. Gerteisen shared that she was born and raised in Lincoln, and a library patron (Gere and now Bethany) since youth and is excited to be on the Board.

Request for Reconsideration Appeal

President Sloan asked Director Wieber to review the Request for Reconsideration process. Director Wieber explained that when a Request is received, it's given to the Director who calls the Request for Reconsideration Committee –which consists of eight staff members from around the system, chaired by Vicki Wood. They read/watch/listen, review, and discuss the item and make a recommendation to the Director. The Director then reviews the item and the recommendation and makes a decision. The Director then notifies the requestor of his decision within 30 days of the receipt of the request and includes information regarding the appeal process.

If the requestor wishes to appeal the Director's decision to the Board, as in this instance, the Director then forwards the appeal to the Library Board Committee on Administration. The Committee on Administration reviews the item, the committee's and the Director's recommendations and develops their recommendation to the Library Board, to be voted on at the following Board meeting. Once the Board makes their final determination, the Library Board President responds to the requestor with the Board's action within 60 days.

President Sloan added that the Committee on Administration consists of the President and the two most senior Board members. He shared that the Board takes all such requests very seriously. President Sloan reported that the Committee on Administration has reviewed the title in question, "True You: A Gender Journey" by Gwen Agna, and their unanimous decision is to retain the item in its current location in youth non-fiction.

Sloan made the motion to Deny the Request for Reconsideration Appeal. Hale seconded. Discussion followed. Ostrowicki spoke in favor of retaining the book . She shared her family's experience; reading about others in differing circumstances has created opportunities for family discussions and engendered empathy. Marvin also commented in favor of retaining the book. She commented on her experiences with families dealing with gender issues who need resources and may not be able to afford them. She noted that families have the right to determine the choices for their own kids. Hale noted the previous Request for Reconsideration was a book focused on the opposing side of the gender conversation, and that book as well was retained in the collection. President Sloan concurred that the Library Board guards against having a specific content-related agenda, stating "fair is fair," and the library collection should have fair representation of a variety of opinions. Bogen noted that the location of the item was consistent and appropriate – it was displayed with other new items, and its normal location on the shelf is near other resources for parents with kids struggling through similar difficult situations, like a divorce or the death of a family member. Bogen also commended the thorough job the committee did, examining the authors and reviews of the work. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Marvin, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale,– AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

No Report.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for April 2023

Marvin reported total Operational Expenditures of \$765,425.78, total Expenditures from Other Funds as \$177,241.03 for Total Expenditures of \$942,666.81 for the month of April. There was no discussion. Marvin motioned approval. Shaw seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Marvin – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair thanked everyone for their support of the *Wine and Dine* event. Results of the giving are pending. *Give to Lincoln Day* is next week. The website will continue to accept donations until the 24th. With slightly over \$2,000 given to date. Donations will support children's programming. McNair reminded all that on Memorial Day the *Coffee on the Patio* event at the Mill Telegraph will host the announcement of the three *One Book One Lincoln* finalists. Proceeds of coffee sales for the morning will be donated to the Foundation. Book nooks are still making steady money and providing a service to the community. More sales opportunities are being planned for the fall. There will be a *Spelling Bee* event again this fall. Hale commended the food and fun events at the *Wine and Dine* event.

One Book One Lincoln Report

Ostrowicki shared that the top eleven finalists are being announced a few at a time using short videos on social media created by the OBOL committee members. Kudos to library staff – Huffman, Jackson and Lombardo for their creativity and hard work making that happen. Please attend the *Coffee on the Patio* event at the Mill on Memorial Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to Purchase Computers from Dell Technologies at an amount not to exceed \$104,850.00

Director Wieber provided background information – First, a correction. The amount has been bumped up to \$110,000.00 to account for any unexpected or additional expenses. On a regular basis, about 150 staff computers are replaced every six years. All the work is completed in house by the Virtual Services Department, headed by R. Cummings. This amount from Dell, a contractually approved vendor by the City of Lincoln, reflects a large discount. A quote from HP came in \$30-35,000 higher. Cummings was present via Zoom to answer questions. President Sloan asked what happens to the machines that are phased out? Cummings explained those are then used to upgrade the Public Access Computers (PACs.) The 12-13 year old, now obsolete PACs are recycled. There were no further questions. Hale motioned to approve \$110,000 for the purchase of computers from Dell Technologies. Ostrowicki seconded. Hale noted that 6 years for staff computers is on the long end of their usefulness, and if you can get 13 years out of any computer, you're doing a tremendous job of using your resources. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Marvin, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Summer Reading Program Report

Youth Services Coordinator, Vicki Wood invited attendees to see the Library Lineup provided – the big, condensed version of everything happening at the library from June to August. There used to be three separate events handouts (adults/teens/kids) which have been replaced by this one document. Kudos to Huffman, Queen, P. Jorgensen, Dale, and the crew of proofreaders at the branches for putting this together – it’s a huge undertaking. The library remains one of the only places in town where kids, teens and adults can all attend events for free.

Wood shared, this year we’re having all the Summer Reading Kickoff parties on the same day and time at all locations. In addition to magic and music, this year we’re hosting alpacas at the library! We’re using the Beanstack software again this year, which gains users each year we use it to track reading. Paper booklets and stickers are still available. This year, we’ve reinstated the, “four visits to the library” piece of the contest, which was put on hold during the pandemic. We’re very excited to welcome folks back in person.

She noted that LCL created a promotional video for the program and shared it with all the Lincoln and Lancaster County schools. Program promotions are in the Journal Star, in Lincoln Kids, on the radio, and the LPS community newspaper. There’s also an FAQ on lincolnlibraries.org. County outreach programs are in place. A storyteller gives a storytime and an art craft or science activity, then leads the kids through the Summer Reading program so they can earn rewards. Those are sites like the Salvation Army, Summer CLC and summer library sites. LPS provides summer library hours at many elementary schools, and we provide Summer Reading Challenge materials to those neighborhood locations.

Wood announced, this year we’re partnering with a diverse group sponsoring the Field Trip Across Lincoln Passport, which encourages folks to visit Lincoln’s family-friendly resources like the Quilt Museum and Morrill Hall, where kids and families can go, their booklet stamped and get prizes at the end of summer. LCL will be a distribution point for the Passports. Last year, they only made 700 booklets, and 45 families completed. This year, with the help of LCL, they’ve increased their printing budget and look forward to having a lot more families participate.

Wood shared two other new things – the registration prize for the birth-pre-school aged kids has never been different from that given to school-aged kids. This year that’s changed. We’re putting an extra emphasis on that age group to encourage parents to read to their youngest kids, and have purchased a ton of fun rubber duckies to use as registration gifts. Traditionally as our grand prize, we’ve given away technology like E-readers and gaming systems. This year, the Lied Center lineup is so rich in family programming, we’re giving away three prize packages with \$250 towards Lied tickets.

Wood reported, the Saltdogs are our big sponsors again this year. The June 9th game is for everyone who signs up, and the tickets for the July 31 recognition night game will be given to those who have completed the program. They’ve been great supporters and we are grateful. The program runs May 26th through July 31st.

Hale noted that the program seems to get better every year, with fun and creative new programming. The Lied Center tickets were a great idea. Marvin asked who designed the great Lineup and Program booklets – all offered many kudos to Huffman and the team of program

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sloan welcomed all meeting attendees, including new member Morgan Gerteisen. He extended thanks to Jessica and Steve for participating in the democratic process that helps keep the Board alert and aware of issues, and the library the very best it can be for the community. Sloan shared that he's excited to move forward with new library projects.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glass shared an update on the new Williams Branch Library. She welcomed Lisa Olivigni, Branch Manager for Eiseley and Williams branches, with whom she has been working for the past three years to complete this project. Glass shared photos of the old facilities and the progress of the new joint Williams Branch Library / Air Park Community Center.

The Air Park neighborhood was originally served by the Arnold Heights Branch Library, which was run out of a former Air Force Duplex for 35 years thanks to an agreement with the Lincoln Housing Authority. The current Williams Library (opened 2009), within Arnold Elementary school provides 28 hours per week of service, in a 2,500 square foot facility, nearly identical to what was provided by the old library.

Glass emphasized; we've been very happy with our partnership with LPS. The new partnership with Parks and Recreation allows us to make a few desired changes, while maintaining at least as many service hours in a similarly sized space within the Community Center. Summer hours will be M-F 10-2, weekends 12-4. New hours will be determined in the fall based on community feedback and usage patterns observed at the new facility.

The facility will include, in addition to the full-service library, a gym, dance and yoga studios, gaming space, outdoor programming areas and more. Project partners include Sampson Construction, Clark and Enersen Architecture, Project Control, LCL and Parks and Rec.

Monument signage is being planned. Some new seating has been purchased, notably to add focus to the beautiful two-sided fireplace. Nearly everything else is being brought over from Williams. The library will have both a conference room, and its own patio. The outdoor patio space is part grass, part concrete for seating, and fenced in, perfect for library programming.

Glass informed the board, the old facility will close for moving the week of June 20th. The new facility joint opening will be on July 10th. There was no further discussion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber shared thanks to all the staff involved in preparing for the Summer Reading Challenge. It's always a ton of work and he's excited to see the results. Thanks to Traci and Lisa and the team at Eiseley/Williams for their hard work.

Wieber shared some charts reflecting activity in the library before, during and after the pandemic. 2023 has shown a large increase in patron usage. Gere and Bethany parking lot resurfacing resulted in some lower numbers on those few days, but LCL is on track to return to 2019 numbers. He also shared

circulation numbers from the time period, which suffered somewhat less due to the availability of online materials. All circulation and attendance numbers are steadily increasing, and we expect to meet or exceed our 2019 numbers.

Ostrowicki congratulated Seacrest on being named Rotary Club No. 14's Nebraskan of the Year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Wersky spoke, more generally, on the topics addressed in the book noted in the Request for Reconsideration. President Sloan thanked her for her comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Memo to the Library Board

June 2023

Please note: this month's Board meeting is at **Anderson Branch Library, at 6pm**. A representative from the Branch- or myself—will of course be glad to offer a tour of the library and introductions to staff after the meeting.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET: The actual percent of budget expended year to date is 70.84%, compared to the budgeted 75%. Annual adjusted expenditures to date is 74.43%.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

The Committee did not meet but could provide an awareness of upcoming work including: applications for the vacant board position are due June 19 and the future process , a Request for reconsideration.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Traci will update on the South Branch Mural project (aiming for Spring 2024)

Committee on Finance

*Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures—Action Item

Reports are attached. Treasurer Donna Marvin will bring forward a motion to approve.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report: Gail McNair

One Book One Lincoln: Jackie Ostrowicki

NEW BUSINESS

*Approval of Updated Policies—Action Item

Note: I'm bringing forth revisions to 3 policies, however, the changes are very minor in language, yet fairly significant in purpose. *All 3 policies have received review by Legal.*

- a. **Fees Policy** – We are removing the \$1 library card replacement fee, in anticipation of the upcoming positive and popular response to those patrons who will want to switch out for one of design contest winning cards. Revenue generated by replacement cards fees is insignificant.

MEMO TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

June 2023

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- b. **Behavior Policy** – We’re increasing the length of time a banned patron has to file an appeal with the Director’s office from 15 days to 30 days. Oftentimes and especially in the case of patrons who are more transient, their ability to receive notification of the ban is within days of the deadline.
- c. **Public Comment Policy** – this reflects a proposed change from 5 minutes to 3 minutes for public commenting length of time (per pc session, not cumulative). This change brings it consistent with what other public bodies allow and is still reasonable.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Traci Glass will present a PowerPoint update on the new Williams Branch.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

I’ll speak to the new Inter-local agreement for the ConnectED Program change.

Contracts Filed:

23060097	Date	Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park - University of NE State Museum	Providing a Virtual tour of the Ashfall Fossil Beds as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program on July 26, 2023 at the times and location in the agreement at a cost not to exceed \$100.00.	5/1/2023
23060028	Date	Flatwater Shakespeare Company	Present “Hamlet for Kids” a two-actor adaptation of Hamlet for elementary and middle school youth as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program, at the dates, times, and locations in the agreement for a cost not to exceed \$150.00.	5/1/2023
23060024	Date	Roomdad Productions, Inc. c/o Aaron Fowler	For providing six performances of “All Together Now” an interactive musical event including singing, moving, playing instrument, and sharing stories as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program at the dates, times, and locations listed in the agreement at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00.	5/1/2023
23060010	Date	Theater Arts for Kids	To provide musical performances as part of the LCL Summer Reading Challenge at the dates, times and locations listed in the agreement.	5/15/2023
23060009	Date	Nebraska Extension	Provide the following services as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program: a. Provide and deliver an incubator and eggs to Gere Branch Library on Friday, June 16th to be displayed at Gere through Thursday, July 13th. b. Participate in Family Storytime on Thursday, July 6th from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Gere Branch Library, to share books about egg-laying animals and lead an activity related to the incubating eggs. c. Retrieve the incubator and eggs from Gere Branch Library no later than Friday, July 14th 2023.	5/15/2023
23060003	Date	Lincoln Symphony Orchestra	for providing the program, “Meet the Instruments” as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program. Make musical instruments available to see and touch with introductions by Lincoln Symphony Orchestra on June 8, 2023, at Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior St., Lincoln NE 68521.	5/15/2023
23060002	Date	Joy Castro, Author	To provide a recorded interview, and live reading for the Ames Reading Series, on Sunday, October 15, 2023, in the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.	5/25/2023
23050109	Date	Lower Platte South NRD	Lower Platte South NRD, 3125 Portia St., Lincoln, NE 68501 and City of Lincoln, d/b/a Lincoln City Libraries for presenting “Family Fun Night - Salamander Night,” as part of Lincoln City Libraries’ Summer Reading Program, providing and showing a Western Tiger Salamander on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Gere Branch Library, 2400 S. 56th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 at no cost.	5/1/2023
23050070	Date	Nick Vaccaro, Musician	To provide a musical presentation and performance of “Chords in Songwriting: The Big Four” on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Polley Music Library at Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508.	5/1/2023

MEMO TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

June 2023

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Continued...

23050068	Dale	Jared Alberico, Musician	To present the program, "Can't Touch This" as part of Lincoln City Libraries' Summer Reading Program, demonstrating the Theremin (musical instrument) and engage the audience to accompany him using instruments and voices at Elseley Branch Library on the dates and times listed in the agreement.	5/1/2023	C
23050054	Dale	Kokyo Taiko Drummers c/o Maureen Brase-Houchin	For providing four performances of Wadaiko, Japanese-style choreographed drumming as part of Lincoln City Libraries' Summer Reading Program at the dates, times, and locations listed in the agreement, at a cost not to exceed \$1,350.00.	5/11/2023	C
23050026	Dale	Karen Shoemaker - Prairie Trout Writer's Group	To participate in, along with the other members of the Prairie Trout Writer's Group, a recorded panel discussion and reading for the Ames Reading Series, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023 in the 4th-floor auditorium of Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. City shall not pay any compensation to Service Provider, but Service Provider shall provide a percentage of 10% of all books sold at the event(s).	5/1/2023	C
23050025	Dale	Twila Hansen - Prairie Trout Writer's Group	To participate in, along with the other members of the Prairie Trout Writer's Group, a recorded panel discussion and reading for the Ames Reading Series, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023 in the 4th-floor auditorium of Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. City shall not pay any compensation to Service Provider, but Service Provider shall provide a percentage of 10% of all books sold at the event(s).	5/1/2023	C
23050024	Dale	Mary Pipher - Prairie Trout Writer's Group	To participate in, along with the other members of the Prairie Trout Writer's Group, a recorded panel discussion and reading for the Ames Reading Series, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023 in the 4th-floor auditorium of Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. City shall not pay any compensation to Service Provider, but Service Provider shall provide a percentage of 10% of all books sold at the event(s).	5/1/2023	C
23050023	Dale	Pam Barger - Prairie Trout Writer's Group	To participate in, along with the other members of the Prairie Trout Writer's Group, a recorded panel discussion and reading for the Ames Reading Series, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023 in the 4th-floor auditorium of Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. City shall not pay any compensation to Service Provider, but Service Provider shall provide a percentage of 10% of all books sold at the event(s).	5/1/2023	C
23050022	Dale	Marjorie Saiser - Prairie Trout Writer's Group	To participate in, along with the other members of the Prairie Trout Writer's Group, a recorded panel discussion and reading for the Ames Reading Series, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023 in the 4th-floor auditorium of Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. City shall not pay any compensation to Service Provider, but Service Provider shall provide a percentage of 10% of all books sold at the event(s).	5/1/2023	C
23050012	Dale	Jeff Sikora, dba "Jeff Quinn, Magician"	Performances as Jeff Quinn the Magician for Summer Reading Program. sed/5.3.23	5/1/2023	C
23050010	Dale	Educare Lincoln	Memorandum of Understanding for Early Childhood Education and Support Services	5/2/2023	C



LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

136 S. 14th Street

Lincoln, NE 68508-1899

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Board

FROM: Paul E. Jones, Business Office

RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - MAY 2023

Library Operational Budget - FY 2022-23	\$ 784,598.05	
Library Enc/Reapp - FY 2021-22	-	
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2022-23	2,888.18	
Polley Music Library - FY 2022-23	8,644.42	
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Total Operational Expenditures		\$ 796,130.65
Grants	\$ 1,097.95	
Hompes Fund	79.41	
Keno	154,876.71	
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	11,953.44	
Capital Improvements	261,165.14	
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Total Expenditures - Other Funds		429,172.65
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 1,225,303.30
		<hr/>

Director's Report for May 2023

Strong libraries reflect a City that values the power of literacy. Signups for the annual Summer Reading Challenge should exceed last year's total and reflect the hard work of so many staff who work together in providing a program across the system that creates a foundationally positive introduction to libraries for thousands of young ones—and adults. The Summer Reading Challenge is not only a rite of the season, but also a crucial activity that places reading and literacy at center stage in a super positive way—for people's lives now, and for the overall quality of life for a community. *Our challenge should always be to discover new ways and new partnerships with others in introducing the library to those who have yet to find it, or when barriers are in the way.*

I have assigned NESU Manager Kim Shelley, Public Services Coordinator LeeAnn Sergeant, and Assistant Director Traci Glass to assist me as a steering team in identifying and coordinating the best process for **strategic planning for LCL**, with an anticipated timeline of October – January for execution. Key components of the work will include engagement (survey, focus groups) of staff and board members, and library stakeholders and community leaders.

With assistance from LPS library administrators we have identified "**Library OneCard**" as the new name for the ConnectEd program, and work is in motion to have it ready for school startup in August. That work includes LPS' lead in creating a logo, combined creation of descriptive content for online needs and school communications, and a new MOU with the name revision. The new name should make the program and its benefits more easily known and recognized with students and families and allow for a fun promotional push.

The **number of library employees** balloons in summertime due to a need to fill temporary positions and satisfying our funding partnership with the Nebraska Library Commission for summer interns. That, and in addition to the natural occurrence of open positions has created a busy season for those involved in the hiring process. I'm grateful for our LCL team who make it all happen.

Mayor Gaylor Baird during the month of June is visiting libraries as part of her "**Mayor on the Move**" series each week. She has met with staff and patrons at Gere and Bethany and plans are also to meet at Walt and Eiseley (or Williams) branches. Her visit to Bethany on June 16 included the opportunity to meet with Marlene Cupp and her family and sit on the bench that was recently provided in her honor in front of the library.

People love the uniqueness found in LCL's 8 locations. LCL is **woven into neighborhoods and lives**— our year-to-date patron traffic count is +15% over 2021-2022, and both visits and circ of materials will approach numbers from 2018-2019, the last full year of non-interrupted service.

Cheers and thankfulness for the many hands involved with the **One Book One Lincoln** process which made a big splash on May 29 at Mill Coffee & Tea with the revealing of the Top 3 finalists for 2023. This popular annual event is a fun way to build excitement for OBOL and generate community togetherness and support of Lincoln City Libraries. Thanks to the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries and the Mill.

The library's stock photography project gets underway this summer, where a professional photographer will capture the vibrancy and essence of buildings, spaces, and activities for use in the website, print, and social media purposes. All imagery will be licensed to LCL/City for our needs.

Support Services staff report that the library receives on average between 300-400 monthly patron requests or suggestions for items for purchase, and while not all requests can be fulfilled for a variety of reasons (pub date and availability, star reviewed/not reviewed, academic vs public), we do fill a majority of requests. Patron submissions (mostly online) are a natural part of the collection development process.

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action

Our Vision: The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community

Interactions

- From Walt Branch: Jessica S. was walking a woman to the crochet books when the patron mentioned she hadn't been in a library since high school. As they walked by the YA video games, she stopped to look at the Switch video games. She became very excited and said she was so glad to see we had Nintendo Switch games to loan. She was a huge gamer. Her friends were constantly telling her about new games to buy, but she could not afford to purchase all the recommendations. She was excited to be able to check them out and try them at home, and couldn't believe the library had newly released, popular video games.
- Caitlin L. [Bennett Martin] relayed that a customer visiting one Sunday couldn't find parking outside. She let him know that we had two programs happening that afternoon. He replied, "I've used this library for a while and never see it this busy. I love it!"
- Charlotte M. described this interaction with a customer, "A library patron had just come from Barnes & Noble wanting to view the Criterion Collection of "important films" but was frustrated at having to stand at B&N writing the (incomplete) list of films. So first I showed her how to search online for a list of the Criterion films to date in order, then I showed her how to search our library using SERIES as the index of her search and then type in Criterion Collection. We have only 100 or so films from that collection but she was very pleased at now knowing how to search online for films on the Criterion list, and that we had over 100 of those films that she could view."

Programming

- Did you know? The Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors "Ames Reading Series" and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association's "Lunch at the Library" author visits are recorded by LNKTV and then placed on the library's YouTube channel and library website for convenient and permanent access. The Ames series has recordings going all the way back to 1985. The most recent Ames event was held May 21st, with 59 people attending the program featuring the Prairie Trout Writing Group.
- As an example, From Northeast Service Unit (NESU) on the popularity of the Summer Reading Challenge: "The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge **All Together Now** began on Friday, May 26. As usual, the first day of the challenge was a whirlwind of activity and Summer reading registrations at NESU support this assertion. At 11 AM on May 26, NESU Librarian Karrie S. noted that 151 people had registered for the program at Anderson Branch and 88 at Bethany Branch. By the end of the day registrations had jumped to 323 at Anderson Branch Library and 179 at Bethany Branch Library. At the end of May, total summer reading challenge registrations at NESU totaled 1,347 (856 at Anderson and 491 at Bethany).
- This month, there were four weekends for Polley Music Library radio programs, which featured a book about the history, cultural significance, and technique of overtone singing or "throat singing," an updated book about folklorist Alan Lomax's "canometrics" system for measuring and comparing songs, a book from the new 33 1/3 Genre Series about dance-punk music, and an overview of several drum kit-related books in Polley for International Drum Month.

Outreach

- From Anderson/Bethany: Riley Elementary invited Librarian Karrie S. to the End-of-School party on the playground May 17. "I took along strips of paper, and all the kids wrote down the best book they read this year. We made a paperchain out of the strips. The kids kept returning to my booth to write down another book and see how long the chain was getting. I talked to 68 people that night and handed out information about the Summer Reading Challenge."

Collections

- A patron came in looking for a hold which she could not locate on our shelf. With some investigating Megan M. found that she had accidentally placed a hold on a digital item instead of a physical copy. The patron mentioned that she had loved using audiobooks in the cd player of her previous vehicle and how much she missed being able to do so now that she has Bluetooth instead. Staff explained how our apps work and how Libby and Hoopla can be used in compatible vehicles. She was very excited to give it a try and to once again have the option of listening to books in her car.

Collaboration

- The Community Garden started taking shape this month at Gere that was the initial space for a Prairie Plot. A staff person shared: "Lots of interest in the community garden. More than one person, after asking what we were putting in, replied – 'I thought so' – with a big smile on their face. Several have said they thought it was a good use of the space."

- Lane G. [Gere] presented his Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ Community in Your Library presentation for NCompass Live on the 17th with over 100 people registered from all over the country. He covered topics including collection development, inclusive and proactive policy, and book challenges. He also presented at Nebraska Library Association's online summer reading prep online training on the 16th where he discussed the teen and adult programming we're doing at Gere and around LCL this summer.
- Assistant Director Traci Glass reports that she continues to work with LCL staff and the folks at Community Crops regarding the installation of a community garden at Gere. The deep well situation has been sorted out, and we are now working on putting a shed in place in time for proposed late spring unveiling.

Community Engagement

- Calley O. and Rhonda H. hosted Family Storytimes at Gere this month with the themes of Monsters; Bugs; Animal Sounds; Shapes; and Summer Fun. Staff shared that on the 3rd as they were closing the door to start storytime when they noticed a mother with five kids in the lobby and invited them in. Afterward the mother shared that she had not taken the kids to the library in the last 2 years but now wants to come on a regular basis. She was provided with a storytime brochure and a personal invite. There were 9 storytimes with 183 attending.

Technology

- Laurie J. at Walt Branch led a 3D printer training program. She walked three people through how to set-up the 3D printer. Then, using Thingiverse and programs like Fusion 360 and Tinkercad, how to find and create files, how to use Cura, and finally the print itself. During the program, Laurie printed an example piece. The attendees asked great questions and one gentleman had begun drawing sketches on the back of his instruction handout of a bracket he wants to design and print. All three people showed interest when Laurie talked about our upcoming *Fusion 360 AutoCAD Introduction* programs this Summer.
- Melanie N. [Gere] shared: "There was a Spectrum Outage on May 24th in Lincoln. I individually had four different people contact us for use of study rooms, internet and quiet spaces who were remote workers needing a space for their workday. The libraries were able to fulfill this need when an outage occurred in other parts of the community."
- Virtual Services staff reports "Shortly after the eCard option went live, I was assisting a patron who contacted us because his card had been purged from our system. He had hoped to be able to check out some OverDrive materials for an upcoming trip but would not have time to come in to register for a new card. I recommended that he try signing up for an eCard as a temporary solution, and he replied to let me know that this worked out well for him."

Facilities

- Gere, Walt, Anderson, and Eiseley Branches all serve as sites for regular elections. As "community centers" our library facilities often go beyond circulating books and offering storytimes. Another

example is the unique partnership with Community Crops and the shared use of library property at Gere for a new community garden.

- Carpets at all locations are cleaned twice a year -spring and fall.

Areas of Excellence and Focus

Early Childhood

- Cindy K. had a delightful interaction with a family and one child in particular, "I welcomed a family with an upper-elementary aged reader and a young reader (probably in kindergarten) as they put books in the book return. I was talking to the younger child about which books he read and enjoyed and offered the children stickers. The youngest boy was very pleased to talk about his books when he got over his shyness, he proudly announced that he had received an award for reading at school."

Additional Areas of Focus—in these, the library usually collaborates with other organizations

Employment

- Caralyn K. [Bennett Martin] relayed this interaction: A woman came to the lab desk and said she just doesn't know anything about computers, but she needs to do a food handlers permit. I helped her get started on number 4, where it would be easy for staff to help her. Eventually we got her through initial hurdles and she was able to proceed through the training module. At the end of the module, after she passed all the units, she was excited to print out her certificate. When I explained she could print it in B&W for ten cents, or twenty-five for color, she said "I'm printing in color! I'm proud of myself-- I did this! I might even get a frame!"

Services to Our Aging Population

- Caralyn K. and LeeAnn S. visited Gateway Vista Manor this month to talk about HOM services with residents there. Three attendees filled out applications for the service while we were on site. Caralyn was able to get their first blue bags ready and mailed the same day upon our return to the library! One new patron has already called Caralyn to discuss the next books she'd like to read and told Caralyn how much she loved the first bag received and was excited for more.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

Local History & Genealogy

- A customer visiting Walt Branch for the first time in years on election day asked Laurie J. about genealogy resources the library offers. She introduced him to the free online resources/databases and did a walkthrough on how to use Ancestry on one of the catalog computers. She also pointed him in the direction of the print collection, the extensive collection throughout the system, and other resources he may find useful like findagrave.com.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

June 16, 2023

**May 2023 Use Compared to May 2022
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Loan Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	21,645	11,346	90.77%	3,803	3,319	14.58%	25,448	14,665	73.53%
Anderson	9,405	9,881	-4.82%	2,220	2,304	-3.65%	11,625	12,185	-4.60%
Bethany	7,047	7,461	-5.55%	1,088	1,109	-1.89%	8,135	8,570	-5.08%
Eiseley	19,924	21,619	-7.84%	2,827	3,170	-10.82%	22,751	24,789	-8.22%
Gere	53,302	55,318	-3.64%	7,421	7,937	-6.50%	60,723	63,255	-4.00%
South	8,105	8,688	-6.71%	1,272	1,427	-10.86%	9,377	10,115	-7.30%
Walt	35,927	37,119	-3.21%	4,595	5,197	-11.58%	40,522	42,316	-4.24%
Williams	362	557	-35.01%	193	205	-5.85%	555	762	-27.17%
Lied Bookmobile	1,382	1,883	-26.61%	158	178	-11.24%	1,540	2,061	-25.28%
InterLibrary Loan	165	227	-27.31%	0	0	0.00%	165	227	-27.31%
Subtotal Checkouts	157,264	154,099	2.05%	23,577	24,846	-5.11%	180,841	178,945	1.06%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	39,277	32,998	19.03%	39,277	32,998	19.03%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,272	26,584	13.87%	30,272	26,584	13.87%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	988	1,008	-1.98%	988	1,008	-1.98%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	157,264	154,099	2.05%	94,114	85,436	10.16%	251,378	239,535	4.94%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	12,887	5,443	136.76%	12,561	9,222	36.21%	10,224	8,279	23.49%
Anderson	6,001	6,574	-8.72%	5,624	5,611	0.23%	5,855	5,391	8.61%
Bethany	5,009	5,184	-3.38%	3,126	3,386	-7.68%	3,420	3,228	5.95%
Eiseley	15,086	16,785	-10.12%	7,665	8,004	-4.24%	9,845	9,368	5.09%
Gere	36,525	37,007	-1.30%	24,198	26,248	-7.81%	20,083	18,336	9.53%
South	5,494	5,842	-5.96%	3,883	4,273	-9.13%	3,603	3,615	-0.33%
Walt	29,041	29,503	-1.57%	11,481	12,813	-10.40%	13,614	12,421	9.60%
Williams	357	487	-26.69%	198	275	-28.00%	607	583	4.12%
Lied Bookmobile	1,074	1,366	-21.38%	466	695	-32.95%	488	213	129.11%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	165	227	-27.31%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	111,474	108,191	3.03%	69,367	70,754	-1.96%	67,739	61,434	10.26%
Download/Stream Audio	5,589	4,591	21.74%	33,688	28,407	18.59%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	4,536	4,032	12.50%	25,736	22,552	14.12%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	988	1,008	-1.98%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	121,599	116,814	4.10%	129,779	122,721	5.75%	67,739	61,434	10.26%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	377	503	-25.05%	248	483	-48.65%	2,122	2,122	0.00%
Anderson	241	657	-63.32%	0	0	0.00%	680	684	-0.58%
Bethany	273	232	17.67%	41	55	-25.45%	332	296	12.16%
Eiseley	1,470	613	139.80%	7	0	0.00%	1,244	1,086	14.55%
Gere	1,672	677	146.97%	156	21	642.86%	1,297	1,262	2.77%
South	443	347	27.67%	8	17	-52.94%	478	422	13.27%
Walt	1,042	752	38.56%	84	147	-42.86%	1,026	987	3.95%
Williams	28	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	84	41	104.88%
Lied Bookmobile	0	570	-100.00%	39	362	-89.23%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	5,546	4,351	27.46%	583	1,085	-46.27%	7,263	6,900	5.26%

**Lincoln City Libraries
May 2023 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	May 2023	May 2022	Total	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	25,448	10,224	2,122	625	38,419	26,052		47.47%
Anderson Branch	11,625	5,855	680	241	18,401	18,917		-2.73%
Bethany Branch	8,135	3,420	332	314	12,201	12,381		-1.45%
Eiseley Branch	22,751	9,845	1,244	1,477	35,317	35,856		-1.50%
Gere Branch	60,723	20,083	1,297	1,828	83,931	83,551		0.45%
South Branch	9,377	3,603	478	451	13,909	14,516		-4.18%
Walt Branch	40,522	13,614	1,026	1,126	56,288	56,623		-0.59%
Williams Branch	555	607	84	28	1,274	1,386		-8.08%
Lied Bookmobile	1,540	488	0	39	2,067	3,206		-35.53%
InterLibrary Loan	165	0	0	0	165	227		-27.31%
SUBTOTAL	180,841	67,739	7,263	6,129	261,972	252,715		3.66%
DownloadStream Audio	39,277	0	0	0	39,277	32,998		19.03%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,272	0	0	0	30,272	26,584		13.87%
Stream Video	988	0	0	0	988	1,008		-1.98%
Download SUBTOTAL	70,537	0	0	0	70,537	60,590		16.42%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	251,378	67,739	7,263	6,129	332,509	313,305		6.13%

WiFi Sessions	116,322	34,992	232.42%
WiFi Users	10,838	5,822	86.16%
Website Users	62,462	63,807	-2.11%
Website Sessions	121,714	124,248	-2.04%
Database Use	8,599	6,741	27.56%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	362,219	301,275	76,560	32,509	772,563	Purged	868	93	833.33%
Added	1,945	3,592	142	85	5,764	Active			
Withdrawn	-3,613	-2,783	-141	-43	-6,580	Resident	146,711	145,830	0.60%
Current	360,551	302,084	76,561	32,551	771,747	ConnectED	42,743	44,298	-3.51%
						County	9,137	9,165	-0.31%
						NonResident	938	924	1.52%
						Reciprocal	482	475	1.47%
						Limited Use	8,445	8,629	-2.13%
						Total Active	208,456	209,321	-0.41%

**Lincoln City Libraries
May 2023 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report**

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	128,934	125,098	3.07%	94,972	76,671	23.87%	21,165	19,122	10.68%	6,895	4,938	39.63%	251,966	225,829	11.57%
Anderson Branch	103,193	96,957	6.43%	45,696	39,232	16.48%	6,205	7,020	-11.61%	5,716	2,071	176.00%	160,810	145,280	10.69%
Bethany Branch	74,116	72,227	2.62%	26,616	23,899	11.37%	2,189	2,097	4.39%	2,496	992	151.61%	105,417	99,215	6.25%
Eiseley Branch	210,720	194,724	8.21%	78,072	66,212	17.91%	10,413	9,243	12.66%	13,726	8,116	69.12%	312,931	278,295	12.45%
Gere Branch	555,406	542,809	2.32%	159,702	141,702	12.70%	11,212	11,173	0.35%	11,903	2,933	305.83%	738,223	698,617	5.67%
South Branch	83,970	83,529	0.53%	30,291	28,244	7.25%	4,057	4,275	-5.10%	2,507	1,652	51.76%	120,825	117,700	2.66%
Walt Branch	359,147	352,114	2.00%	106,748	90,095	18.48%	9,026	8,408	7.35%	9,266	3,355	176.18%	484,187	453,972	6.66%
Williams Branch	6,756	6,591	2.50%	5,876	4,710	24.76%	561	450	24.67%	851	197	331.98%	14,044	11,948	17.54%
Lied Bookmobile	14,858	19,917	-25.40%	3,991	1,393	186.50%	0	0	0.00%	2,619	10,814	-75.78%	21,468	32,124	-33.17%
InterLibrary Loan	1,783	2,238	-20.33%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,783	2,238	-20.33%
SUBTOTAL	1,538,883	1,496,204	2.85%	551,964	472,158	16.90%	64,828	61,788	4.92%	55,979	35,068	59.63%	2,211,654	2,065,218	7.09%
DownloadStream Audio	324,399	274,430	18.21%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	324,399	274,430	18.21%
Download/Stream eBooks	255,739	225,002	13.66%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	255,739	225,002	13.66%
Stream Video	7,792	7,213	8.03%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	7,792	7,213	8.03%
Download SUBTOTAL	587,930	506,645	16.04%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	587,930	506,645	16.04%
TOTAL LOANS	2,126,813	2,002,849	6.19%	551,964	472,158	16.90%	64,828	61,788	4.92%	55,979	35,068	59.63%	2,799,584	2,571,863	8.85%

WiFi Sessions	1,031,540	960,365	7.41%
WiFi Users	94,274	93,722	0.59%
Website Users	548,612	550,851	-0.41%
Website Sessions	1,064,257	1,078,467	-1.32%
Database Use	103,587	106,535	-2.77%