LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015; 8:00 AM  
BOARD ROOM, BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
136 S 14TH STREET, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  

PRESENT: Lowell Berg, Carol Speicher, Herb Schimek, Donna Marvin, Kathy McKillip.  
Absent: Herb Friedman, Martha Florence.  

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Leach, Library Director; Barbara Hansen, Administrative Aide; Paul Jones, Business Office Accountant; Carolyn Dow, Polley Music Librarian; Julie Beno, Bennett Martin Public Library Public Service Coordinator; Brenda Ealey, Gere Branch Manager; Gail McNair, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Executive Director; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney.  

Vice President Donna Marvin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. It was announced that the Open Meetings Law of the State of Nebraska was posted and available for inspection. It was also announced that although Herb Friedman was not able to attend the meeting, he would be listening by phone and would not be participating in discussion nor voting on action items.  

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Schimek moved to approve the agenda as posted. Second by Speicher. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Marvin, Schimek, Speicher – aye; Florence, Friedman, McKillip – absent. Motion carried 4-0.  

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Schimek moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014, meeting as distributed. Second by Speicher. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Schimek, Speicher, Berg – aye; McKillip, Florence, Friedman – absent. Motion carried 4-0.  

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:  
Committee on Administration – No report.  
Committee on Buildings & Grounds – No report.  
(McKillip arrived at this time.)  
Committee on Finance: In the absence of the Treasurer, Marvin reported on recap of expenditures for December 2014 listing claims in the amount of $725,578.25. Schimek moved to approve the report and payment of all claims. Second by Berg. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg – aye; Florence, Friedman – absent. Motion carried 5-0.  

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:  
Central Library Committee: Pat Leach reported on the January 7th committee meeting reporting on New Markets Tax Credit financing, service club presentations, Idea Place LNK project potential and City Council contacts.  

It was noted that entities interested in a Food Hub are continuing to study the Pershing site. An announcement may be made at the end of the month regarding their study.  

Leach reported she visited with Gary Wasdin, former Director of Omaha Public Library, regarding the library project in Omaha at 72nd and Dodge. This facility will not be a branch of the Omaha Public Library but rather a private facility in partnership with the library, operated under a 501(c)3 board. The Heritage League, a group of private donors in Omaha, is funding the project. Private money is building it, private money is covering operating expenses for four years. The facility will be used to test new concepts in library service prior to introducing to a new central library. There will be no permanent collection but rather space for technology and programming such as storytime.
Central Library Marketing – Leach reported she continues to meet with service organizations.

Foundation Board - McNair reported that progress is being made on the white paper. The awareness campaign billboard is up and can be seen on West Van Dorn. KFOR radio ads are being prepared. Plans for the foundation’s 60th anniversary celebration continue with four sponsors on board so far. Auction items are needed, especially experiences. Tickets are $60 each.

The Friends campaign has resulted in receipts of $37,000 since October. McNair continues to work on grant applications. An assistant has been hired and will also be available to assist with the Foundation’s website. Coffee on the dock at The Mill in the Haymarket will be again be held on Memorial Day.

One Book - One Lincoln: Marvin reported the steering committee met to review last year’s program and make plans for the 2015 program. David Smith has again agreed to chair the selection committee. Changes to the program this year include staff vetting the nominations to assure availability prior to the list going to the selection committee. Nominations open January 26 with a deadline of February 23. The selection committee will determine the title rather than holding a community vote. In order to add more energy to the program, staff recommended that the timeline for selection of the title be tightened up, allowing more time for development of special events. The title will be announced on Memorial Day at the Foundation event at The Mill. This may allow for some cross promotion with the library’s summer reading program.

Technology Committee: The committee did not met. Leach reported the contract for the new integrated library system (ILS) with SirsiDynix has been approved by City Council. Staff will need to move very quickly on the migration process. As part of the change to a new ILS, Lincoln is withdrawing from the Pioneer consortium. Website development continues with a lot of effort going into making the site not only user friendly but visually appealing.

NEW BUSINESS:
Authorization to Expend Book Sale Proceeds: Leach reported receipts from the 2014 book sale totaled $46,404.19 and requested the Board authorize the expenditure of the receipts for materials; youth $15,751.00, adult, $29,653.19, and Polley Music Library $1,000. Authorization moved by Schimek, second by McKillip. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg – aye; Friedman, Florence – absent.

Approval of Foundation Board Appointment Recommendations: The Library Board must approve recommendations to the Foundation Board so that the Foundation retains its current standing with the IRS. The Foundation is recommending the appointment of Brian Chaffin and Rod Confer to the Foundation Board, for a term of three years, with the potential for two three-year renewals. Berg moved to approve the appointment of Brian Chaffin and Rod Confer. Second by Schimek. Roll Call Vote: McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg, Marvin – aye; Florence, Friedman – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Leach reported the library is testing a faxing service for the public. Staff receives a regular number of requests and we have fax machines so we feel it is reasonable to try it. During the trial period of six months we are charging a fee of $2 per page. If the trial period is successful, we will bring a fee schedule adjustment to the Library Board.

Leach reported she attended a news conference on January 9 for Community Action Partnerships Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service. The service is available at two sites
this year. This is a win win for the library and the community. A copy of the library’s annual report was shred with Board members. It is also shared with the City Council and County Commissioners. Leach reported that she has made presentations to Lincoln Center Kawanis, SE Kiwanis, Bethany Lions, Gateway Sertoma, Rotary East, Star City Lions during the past month, and three presentations scheduled this week. Leach guest hosted the NET Radio All About Books segment last week and will host again this week. She also appeared on Friday Live with Youth Services Coordinator Vicki Wood last month to talk about good books for the holidays.

FMA Realty, the library’s new facilities maintenance firm, is doing well. They have been working with new custodial crews and have been doing a good job.

Lowell asked about the December use report. Bennett Martin Public Library circulation is up and Gere is down. Does staff know why? Leach explained that there are no apparent concrete reasons. We continue to monitor and discuss with front line staff. We also make sure that when customers are in the library, they are getting the most from their visit with recommendations for items they may not have been aware of. It is important that we continue to market our collections. We have ongoing worry about collection budget. The library has not been able to build its collection of eBooks quickly enough to address the need in the community.

Schimek noted that numbers don’t tell the whole story. How do you report on the impact you make? How do you tell you story?

It was noted that a well-designed recap from Aspen Institute report may be very useful. The Aspen Institute Report is excellent and should be well-circulated.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.