

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore.

Absent: Terri Dunlap

Arrived later: Nichole Bogen, Joe Shaw.

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries, Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, LeeAnn Sergeant, Jennifer Hatfield, Ali Bousquet, Sarah Dale, Senior Atty for City Law Dept, Jocelyn Golden, Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill; Eleanor Creative designer, Sean Flattery.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Ostrowicki called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law and today's agenda were posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

Ostrowicki noted that the Agenda was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Moore moved approval of the Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Beutler moved to approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Discussed City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), will report with Finance Committee discussion.

Committee on Technology

Did not meet. Shaw arrived at this time.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

In Treasurer Dunlap's absence, VP Hale reported that the Operational Expenditures for December 2025 were \$901,806.66. The Total of Expenditures of Other Funds was \$284,918.12 for Total Expenditures of \$1,186,724.78. Hale motioned approval. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0. Bogen arrived at this time.

Biennial budget Process for 2026-2028 and Capital Improvement Plan

Director Wieber reviewed the CIP process and noted that for the next two years, the library has included multiple smaller deferred maintenance projects at branch locations this year. Brief discussion followed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared that a \$5 million donation has raised locally sourced funds to the level where the Foundation can begin to widen its reach for donors. She shared that her new intern will be putting out the first new Foundation Newsletter. She introduced Sean Flattery of Eleanor Creative who was slated to report on the new website design later in the meeting. She noted that the Foundation is working on aligning budgets with library needs and working to increase fundraising targets.

One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)

Gerteisen reported receiving 23 applications for new One Book One Lincoln Committee Members to fill five open spots. The chosen members are as follows: John Boehler, Jessie Hedrick, Josh Haws, Hanna Pinneo and Becca Henry. She noted that the t-shirts celebrating 25 years of OBOL will be available and a new promotional campaign via Patron Point is planned. Titles can be nominated through the end of January and the first committee meeting is scheduled for February 7th. She shared a big thanks to Jackson's and Aracena's team for narrowing down the titles.

NEW BUSINESS

*FLCL/Eleanor Creative Presentation of New FLCL Marketing & Website

Sean Flattery of Eleanor Creative provided a presentation of the upcoming brand refresh and website update for the Foundation. The site should go live this spring. Brief discussion followed.

*Consideration of 2026 FLCL Board Appointees

Wieber shared the list of new FLCL Board Appointees: Brian Bock, Angela Boule, Jessie Hedrick, Alicia Reisinger, and Alexis Wingert. She shared that there is one returning member, and four new faces with great energy and positivity, and a new diversity of background and specialty areas. Brief Discussion followed. Moore moved to approve the roster in full. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared the poem, “Elegy” by Jill Osier. She discussed the results of the Board Survey report and resulting action plan to (1) strengthen Board-Staff connections, (2) Improve information access – completed progress on which includes creating a shared drive for access to meeting documents, (3) Enhance advocacy and visibility – to aid in this, the Talking Points document has been located to the Board’s shared drive, and finally (4) building closer ties to the Foundation – planned projects include quarterly meetings, a joint retreat and a review of the Foundation’s Bylaws.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann shared staffing updates. She also noted that the bookmobile delivery date has been bumped up to mid-February. The old vehicle will go through the City surplus process. The two new vehicles will have newly curated collections thanks to Ali Bousquet and will launch in April. A celebration will be planned.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber noted a continued flat or decreased circulation of physical items, while digital circulation is up. He shared that coordinators and managers are meeting later today to discuss metrics attached to the Strategic Plan, some of which will include planning ways to increase physical circulation. He also pointed to new patron counters which should be more accurate than the old ones, and how much the road construction around Gere impacted their circulation. He shared plans to seek Foundation support to increase digital collections and noted that attendance at events is up.

Wieber reported that the Central Library team is working with Sampson Construction to find solutions to keep prices in check with the budget, updates are expected in the next week which will be reported to the Board. The

surplus process on 1111 O St. continues, and since the value of what remains is low enough to discourage a bidding process, permission has been granted to offer the items to state and local organizations at no cost.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki shared her daughter's positive experiences with volunteering at Gere – how all the staff are so personable and good at creating relationships with the volunteers, allowing them to really feel connected to the branch. She also shared hearing many positive comments on the new Central Library project. Beutler expressed gratitude for library staff who provided her with another copy of the book she'd unknowingly checked out with damage, and Gerteisen shared a friend's excellent experience attending the Taylor Swift birthday program with her daughter. She said her daughter was 'counting the days' until the event. Moore expressed her gratitude for seeing the stories in the Director's monthly report that bring depth and flavor to the statistics. Foundation Director Hill noted what a joy it has been for her to get to know staff at all the locations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.