

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Joe Shaw, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore, Nichole Bogen.

City of Lincoln Staff present: Ryan Wieber, Sarah Dale, Jennifer Hatfield, LeeAnn Sergeant, Jocelyn Golden.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Ostrowicki called the meeting to order at 8:05 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. She noted one correction to the Agenda ("Approve August 5, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes" should read "Approve August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes.") Shaw moved approval of the corrected Agenda. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER, MARILYN MOORE

Ostrowicki welcomed Moore and invited her to introduce herself. Moore spoke of her career as an educator – a Middle school Teacher, LPS District Administrator and President of Bryan Health Sciences until her retirement a year ago, and her feelings on Lincoln Libraries ("just gems") that she visits regularly. She shared her current read, *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*, and her delight at listening to the author last week – a wonderful gift to readers.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Hale moved to approve the August 19, 2025 meeting minutes. Dunlap seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Gerteisen – AYE. Moore – Abstained. Motion passed 6-0 with one (1) abstention.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

Did not meet.

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

Director Wieber noted that normally at this point, Treasurer Dunlap would report on the monthly expenditures from August, however this month's report is lacking the Purchasing Card (P-card) activity, due to bank downtime making the figures from the Finance Department late. He noted that the regular vote to approve the expenditures would need to wait until October, in order to have the completed report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Tiffani Hill was absent. Wieber shared her report. He noted that the Tiffani will be part of the annual staff Inservice – she will give an overview of the Foundation. The NLHA Adult Spelling Bee is slated for Thursday, October 9th, from 5:00 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Screammers. Please save the date for a Wine Tasting/Mixer for Library Board and Foundation Board members October 15, details to come. The Foundation's executive committee met with their accountants and will be donating \$500,000 to the Central Library Project, pending approval at their monthly board meeting, with plans to donate an additional \$500,000 down the road. Discussion followed.

One Book One Lincoln

Gerteisen reported that the winning author had shown great excitement, posting on her social media that she was in the competition and encouraging her fans to vote. She shared high voting numbers this year, and discussion followed as to whether she would be available in person or online for the upcoming author talk and celebration. Wieber informed the board that negotiations are currently in the works, if not to bring the author in person, which is the hope, but at a minimum to have her online. Travel costs in this instance are high as the author is currently living in Kyrgyzstan. She is, however, excited to come to Lincoln and eager to find a way to make it work.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Observations

Ostrowicki introduced a new section of the meeting, an opportunity to share lived library experiences, news and ideas about libraries and give board members a regular chance to engage in the meetings. Ostrowicki shared an observation from a friend whose son had a great experience with the intern hiring process at Walt Branch. She opened the floor to others. Beutler shared her experience of beginning a book at a library while on vacation, then putting it on hold here so she could finish it, and receiving it seamlessly the next day. Gerteisen shared an anecdote from her book club, a family celebrated their first foray into Summer Reading by visiting every branch to attend programming. Hale shared she'd had a chance to participate in the sustainability workshop for the new library, and commended how well organized and interactive and informative it was. Shaw brought an article to share from another library system that successfully fostered community with their new facility, and shared their great ideas. He also shared some details from his visit to the Foundation Board meeting, and his feeling that we are in good hands. Dunlap shared her questions about what exactly makes a "modern library." Wieber responded with a couple of notes: adaptable spaces, infrastructure that supports adaptations, and the increased number and varied sizes of study spaces/meeting rooms being planned. In addition to the physical space, bringing partners into the picture to support one another to create new and desirable programming and services for customers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ostrowicki shared her Local View article from the Journal Star 7.25.25, noting that some of the answers to the "modern library" question is also addressed, showing that while the traditional library

offered books and librarians, the modern version encompasses more of a community gathering space atmosphere. She also shared a New York Times article on tool libraries, and the model to maintain a *library of things* that reduces waste and increases equitability and encouraged thinking creatively about new library offerings that fit the needs of the Lincoln community.

She shared plans to survey members' preferences for receiving data for meetings, and discussed the new committee memberships and chairs. She encouraged members to come for all or part of the staff Inservice.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann was absent due to a travel delay.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber shared the progress made with LPD to find and apprehend the thief that broke into Walt Branch Library a week ago. The broken window will be costly to replace, and the two coin-bins from the printer/copier machines were stolen, along with a couple of staff iPhones and iPads. Replacements and repairs are in process. Walt staff did a great job cleaning up and getting the building open. A second security and vandalism incident at Bennett Martin occurred and police are familiar with the patron and on the lookout to arrest him. LPD has been very cooperative and responsive.

He shared information about Welcoming Week. The library participates in the community-wide event that brings together neighbors and promotes communication. Special storytimes are planned, as well as various adult programs including Lotería, Mah Jongg and a Heritage Room program that brings new Americans in who have written their experiences. Their stories will be compiled and placed in the Heritage Room collection.

The final design from the Communications Department has been passed along to the company for the colorful wrap. Storage places for the two new vehicles are being discussed.

Central Library Update:

The Library took ownership last week. Superintendent Miller is keeping the utilities and security in check until the Construction Manager will take charge early next year. Skywalk entrances are being maintained and monitored with the help of Park & Go. Automated locks have been installed on the doors leading from the parking garage to the east skywalk.

The Construction Manager RFP and Coffee Shop RFPs are in process. Thanks to Law and Purchasing for all their work. The bond sale is scheduled for 9/30. Discussion followed. The architects will collaborate with the City on the Project O Street to make sure the library fits in with all the improvement plans. Wieber shared details from the sustainability workshop and the environmental considerations the architects are examining. Planners are working to achieve two "globes" in the Green Globes certification process.

Potential community partners were discussed, and the ongoing process to attract and work with those organizations. To participate in the build-out of those spaces, partners will need to be identified by December.

Wieber renewed the invitation to walk over to 1111 O St.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.