

# Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, September 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
GERE BRANCH LIBRARY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Shaw, Dan Sloan, Morgan Gerteisen, Jackie Ostrowicki, Terri Dunlap present. A quorum was present. Lisa Hale arrived later. Patty Beutler and Nichole Bogen were absent.

## CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Shaw called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was posted and available for review.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shaw noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Shaw asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as posted. Ostrowicki so moved. Sloan seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Sloan, Shaw – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Shaw asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ostrowicki so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

No report

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

No report

### Committee on Finance

#### Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for July, 2024

In Treasurer Hale’s absence, Vice President Ostrowicki shared that expenditures from the Operational budget were \$738,160.98, from the Heritage Room fund were \$2,404.56 and from the Polley Music Library fund were \$10,147.74, totaling \$750,713.28. Expenditures from other funds included \$2,684.34 in grants, \$22,192.42 from the Hompes fund, \$206,866.42 from Keno funds and \$35,210.77 in

miscellaneous library donations, and \$6,856.71 from Capital Improvements, totaling \$273,810.66 for Total Expenditures of \$1,024,523.94. Ostrowicki moved approval of the report. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair reported, the NLHA sponsored Lunch at the Library programs will start a new year in October, author Alan J. Bartels is the first featured speaker. Gail provided flyers for the upcoming Spelling Bee on October 30<sup>th</sup> at Screamers restaurant, as well as forms to sign up for sponsorship and to be a speller. Sponsorships include tickets to the event, John Baylor will once again host the event. Sponsorships are \$80 for Friends of LCL, and \$85 for all others. Sign-up is available on the Foundation website. Brief discussion followed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Summer Reading Challenge 2024 report

Director Wieber introduced Ali Bousquet, LCL's new Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator. Bousquet presented highlights from the summer: Program attendance was up about 6%, Registration was down slightly. Normally LPS receives funding for Summer Library programs, and they did not this year, and this resulted in about 800 fewer sign-ups from LPS. Summer Storytimes were up by 20%. The pool pass sign-up prize was very well received. The Splish-Splash storytimes at the pools attracted about 100 participants each and will be repeated next summer. Of the 16,000+ participants, approximately 12,000 were children, adults and teens made up the remaining 4,000. Brief discussion followed.

Director Wieber asked for a review of the Summer Outreach program. Bousquet described how four summer temps work 20 hours a week to cover storytimes. Three work within the city limits with schools, CLC's and day camps. One goes out into the county, making stops in Hallam, Firth, Panama and Waverly. There was brief discussion about outreach opportunities and the old and new bookmobiles.

### Incidents/Bannings Report

Director Wieber introduced Sarah Dale, Administrative Aide. Dale presented highlights from FY 23-24 incident reports and bannings. The total number of Incidents and the total number of bans stayed nearly even in comparison to FY 22-23. Incidents of a medical nature were down slightly, and one involved the saving of a customer's life by Bennett Martin staff. Bans were most frequently brief (30-90 days) in duration. The number of thefts was up slightly from last year, and the incidents of censorship were down. There was brief discussion.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shaw welcomed the newest board member, Terri Dunlap. Shaw distributed copies of the new committee assignments. Brief discussion followed. An updated list will be distributed.

## ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared that the Annual Staff Inservice Day will be held Friday. All Board members are invited, and Ostrowicki, Shaw and Sloan will be present to serve on a panel to answer

questions about their Board service for staff. Amber Stephenson, Curator of the Heritage Room will give a presentation on the special collection. LPD Cpt. Ben Kopsa and Matt Martinosky from Centerpointe will present on the Alternate Response Program. State Poet, Matt Mason will talk about poetry and its historical function, which will be followed by small groups of staff discussing their favorite poems. Another panel will feature Community Cultural Centers, including the Asian Community Center, El Centro de las Americas, and the Malone Center to discuss available services. Senator Danielle Conrad will finish the day with a talk about the importance of libraries to the community.

Glaesemann gave a staffing update. Vacancies are being filled, LCL is getting closer to being fully staffed. There are five 20-hour positions vacant, interviews are in process for the 40-hr positions at Bennet Martin, as well as the Gere and Bennett Martin Library Service Supervisor positions. Candidates are being selected and positions offered for Gere and Eiseley vacancies. A contingent offer has been made for the Walt Library Manager position

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber deferred to Library Coordinator, LeeAnn Sergeant, for a report on One Book One Lincoln (OBOL). Sergeant shared that Lincoln City Libraries is bringing author Amanda Peters, of the winning OBOL title, "The Berry Pickers" to Lincoln for an event on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The public event will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln High School auditorium. Prior to the event, a VIP reception will be held from 5:30-6:30 at Francie and Finch bookstore downtown. Invitations are forthcoming.

Director Wieber gave an update on the Ballot Box cameras. The network will be created by Allo, and it will be a closed loop to the Election Commissioner's office. There will be no access by library staff or anyone other than the Election Commissioner. They will be live before ballot drop-off, and will only be live during an election cycle.

He shared that Chloe Burgett, local children's book illustrator won the competition, which was judged by Library and Lux staff, members from the Country Club Neighborhood Association and the Mayor's office. Chloe's completed mural will be featured on the west wall of South Branch Library. An event this Sunday will be held where the public can help paint the background pieces of the mural. The artist will complete the work and the mural will be installed by the first week in October. A press conference will be held October 9th at 11am. Brief discussion followed.

Wieber shared another big event, the presentation of the statuette of Willa Cather, will be held at Gere on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Speakers will include the sculptor, Littleton Alston, Cather scholar Steve Shively, and Ashley Olson from the National Willa Cather Center. A showing of "Nebraska Stories: Willa Goes to Washington" will be given courtesy of Nebraska Public Media and donors Glenda Pierce and Jeff Kirkpatrick will be in attendance.

Wieber shared that a Data Dashboard is in process that will be featured on the library website to demonstrate the library's activity and financial information. Brief discussion followed.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m.