

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

EISELEY BRANCH LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Joe Shaw, Dan Sloan, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler. Terri Dunlap, Nichole Bogen. Absent: Lisa Hale, Jackie Ostrowicki.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law and today's agenda were 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. Director Wieber announced the Closed Session planned for the meeting would be cancelled and rescheduled for a later date. Gerteisen moved to amend the agenda by removing the closed session. Sloan seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Beutler, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Beutler moved approval of the amended Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Sloan motioned approval of the March minutes. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Director Wieber noted the committee plans to meet soon at discuss the annual new Board Member process.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Director Wieber shared that the Buildings & Grounds committee met on March 26th. Topics discussed included elevator issues at Bennett Martin, a soffit replacement project at Anderson, the replacement of tile with carpet in the entryways at Walt and Eiseley, and a review of the Custom Edges contract.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

In Treasurer Hale's absence, member Morgan Gerteisen reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for February were \$898,136.87. The Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$69,930.96 for a Total of \$968,067.83. Beutler moved approval. Sloan seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Keno Funds Report

Accountant Ali Larson indicated that Keno funds typically account for approximately \$1,000,000 of the annual budget. By comparison property taxes provide \$13,000,000. She noted that the distribution of Keno funds was established in 1993 for community betterment. Of those funds, designated Special Revenue Fund #175, Libraries receive 30% of the total, Parks 65% and the remaining 5% goes to fund grants to small human services organizations. Funds are allocated monthly.

Of the funds the Library receives, 80% goes to library media and 20% to technology improvements with a priority for serving individuals with disabilities. All the spending is patron-centered. Any overage in the estimated income is appropriated to Capital Improvement Program (CIP) expenses. These overages have funded projects like parking, roofs, HVAC systems, Bookmobile, energy efficiency upgrades, and recently – the Williams Branch Library. There is currently \$120,000 set aside for the two new bookmobiles.

Larson informed the Board that a significant portion of the e-book and e-audio budget comes from Keno funds. She noted that although the anticipated reduction in Keno funds due to Lincoln's new casino has been less significant than planned for, it's not an entirely secure or predictable number, so its use must be monitored closely. Brief discussion followed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

One Book One Lincoln

One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) Board Liaison, Morgan Gerteisen reported the final committee meeting is scheduled for the week of April 14th to pick the top three titles. She shared that there are a great variety of genres this year, including sci fi and mystery. The committee will start filming top ten videos Friday. The top three titles will be announced at the Memorial Day event at The Mill. Brief discussion followed.

Dan Sloan gave a brief update on the hiring process for a new Foundation for LCL Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS

*Approval of Custom Edges Lawn Care Contract Renewal not to exceed \$50,520**

Director Wieber shared that this first renewal is for the same amount as the original contract. Custom Edges has done a great job for the branches they work on - Anderson, Bethany, Eiseley, Gere and Walt – this past year and LCL would be pleased to have them continue. There was no discussion. Sloan moved approval of the contract. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shaw reported that he was pleased to speak along with Councilman Beckius at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. He expressed his appreciation for LCL's volunteers, noted how strongly we depend on their service each year, and how good it is to be part of that celebration.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared a hiring report and details about Outreach, Summer Interns, and Summer Temps who help make the Summer Reading Challenge happen every year. In addition to Interns and Temp staff, five shadowing positions will be made available via the Career Academy at Southeast Community College. The students will shadow staff at Walt, in the Heritage Room and in Support Services. Six applications have been received for the Staff Innovation grant. The applications will be reviewed and funds provided via Foundation for LCL funds.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced new Mayoral aide Amanda Callaway, who will act as the library's liaison to the Mayor's office. Brief discussion followed.

Wieber gave the floor to Eiseley/Williams Manager, Lisa Olivigni who reported that Eiseley has begun its first session of technology basics classes, made possible by a grant that Walt Manager, Wyatt Packard received from the Public Library Association (PLA). Eiseley/Williams staff are gearing up for Summer Reading. Williams changes to its regular summer hours on May 23rd, and staff are excited to see what this year brings since last summer was so successful at Williams.

Director Wieber encouraged the gathering to take the opportunity while at Eiseley to go view the Eddie Dominguez torso, and also mentioned the display of Loren Corey Eiseley materials created by Heritage Room Curator, Deb Arenz, to celebrate the completion of the new Eiseley memorial at Irvingdale Park.

Wieber shared that the Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) in partnership with, among others, Polley Music Librarian, Scott Scholz is opening the Music Box across 14th Street to the west from Bennett Martin. It's a space where local musicians can practice, rehearse, and record. Libraries will be able to use the space for performances. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 24. DLA is also involved in the repaving project for the alley to the north of Bennett Martin. That work is scheduled to take place in July or August. Lighting and drainage is also being addressed. Due to the ongoing street improvements project, the annual Zoo Fest celebration will be moved south a couple of blocks to the south and will be held in front of Bennett Martin on July 11-12.

Director Wieber noted that the elevators at Bennett Martin continue to cause problems for staff and customers, and it's a constant project to keep them running safely. The soffits at Anderson are deteriorating and replacement is being considered. The Bethany parking lot space is expected to be improved by the end of 2025. Finally, the old tiled entryways at Eiseley and Walt are being replaced with carpet that's more affordable and will mute sounds better.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.