

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Shaw 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*

Shaw noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Sloan moved approval of the Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Director Wieber shared that the committee meet on April 28th to discuss future library plans and the new member appointment process. He reported that five applications have been received thus far and urged members to encourage folks to apply.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

In Treasurer Hale's absence, Vice President Jackie Ostrowicki reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for April were \$811,124.99. The Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$140,415.42 for a Total of \$951,540.41. Hale and Bogen arrived at this time. Gerteisen moved approval. Hale seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale ~~Beutler~~ – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Tiffani Hill, Executive Director of FLCL reported that she has begun monthly meetings for traction and messaging on the new library project. She noted that new committees and chairs have been formed and assigned and the wheels are in motion for active support.

One Book One Lincoln

One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) Board Liaison, Morgan Gerteisen reported that all is ready for the announcement of the top three titles on Memorial Day. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and the winners will be announced at 10:30 a.m. Eight of the ten videos have been released online, the final two are scheduled to be posted on Friday the 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Reading Challenge Report – Coordinator, Ali Bousquet

Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator, Ali Bousquet reminded folks that the Summer Reading Challenge begins on Friday, May 23. She reviewed this year's theme, "Color our World" and the details of the program. Special programs will include past favorites, Magician Jeff Quinn, Saltdogs games, and City Pool passes among others. New sponsors include Raising Canes and Red Robin. She reported statistics from last year's program and shared that marketing for this summer included television and radio ads. She expressed her admiration of staff who have planned and prepared, and now are managing an average of seven events daily in addition to increased traffic across the system. Brief discussion followed.

Resolution to Recommend the Purchase of 1111 "O" Street for a New Downtown Library*

Director Wieber shared updates on the proposed plans including Southeast Community College's consideration of the purchase agreement which should culminate in their support for the deal, next steps with the CIP and the Planning Commission, Urban Design and several community engagement events, beginning with a June 4th open house at Bennett Martin. Many more presentations are scheduled for groups including the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Lincoln Association board, Rotary and LIBA. A new contract is being drafted with the Architects and the project managers which will likely require a special session in the upcoming month for approval. Discussion followed.

President Shaw read the Resolution aloud:

A RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF LINCOLN PURCHASE THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITY AT 1111 O STREET FOR THE FUTURE CENTRAL LIBRARY LOCATION

Whereas, Bennett Martin Public Library on 14th and N Streets has served as the Central location for the Lincoln City Libraries system since 1962; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees for Lincoln City Libraries, together with the City of Lincoln, have taken actions for over twenty years to identify a solution for the improvement and modernization of its Central Library; and

Whereas, those actions have included architectural and service studies, space needs plans, facilities master plans, and community engagement sessions with residents; and

Whereas, an opportunity to purchase and adaptively reuse a facility owned by Southeast Community College (SCC), known as "Education Square" or the former "Centrum Mall" at 1111 O Street as the future Central Library; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries recognizes the SCC Education Square facility as an ideal location for modern library services that would provide valuable services, collections, activities, and impact for residents of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County; and

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Library Board recommends the City of Lincoln proceed with all required due diligence to purchase the facility at 1111 O Street as the future Central Library location for Lincoln City Libraries.

Dunlap moved approval of the Resolution. Ostrowicki seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shaw expressed his satisfaction with the new library plan. He encouraged members to celebrate and prepare to work to take full advantage of the unique opportunity to do something on this scale for the City of Lincoln and Lincoln City Libraries.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared that Walt branch library had recently screened the documentary, "Free for All" about libraries and their impact on communities. She gave a staffing update, a review an AARP Community Challenge grant that will expand digital literacy classes, and an update on the Staff Innovation Grants process. Fifteen applications were submitted, eight will be funded. Attendance at the Digital Literacy classes thus far has been great – all classes are full, extras have been admitted and there's still a waiting list. Brief discussion followed.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber reported on some continuing maintenance issues. The elevators at Bennett Martin continue to break down and need repairs, and replacement may still be required to ensure public safety and accessibility. A fire panel at Eiseley branch had to be replaced at a cost that was manageable, but high. The Bookmobile is spending increasing time off the road. Currently the generator that powers lights, a/c and computers at stops is not functional. A high temperature threshold limiting when the Bookmobile can go out during the summer will be determined and followed. The wraps for the new Bookmobiles are currently being chosen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.