

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

EISELEY BRANCH LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jacki Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore, Terri Dunlap, Joe Shaw

Absent: Patty Beutler, Nichole Bogen

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries, Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Jennifer Hatfield, Sarah Dale, Ali Bousquet, Rebecca Aracena, Senior Atty for City Law Dept, Jocelyn Golden, Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill; Project Control Project Managers Anthony Fitzgerald and Caleb Swanson.

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, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 MEETING MINUTES*

Moore moved to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

Treasurer Dunlap reported that the Operational Expenditures for February 2026 were 943,462.94. The Total of Expenditures of Other Funds was \$160,788.63 for Total Expenditures of \$1,104,251.57. Gerteisen motioned approval. Moore seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared that the new Foundation website with its complete rebrand has gone live. She reported that the Capital campaign has brought in \$20,675,000 and there's another \$2,000,000 in asks pending. Two more requests have been submitted. A large bequest was also received, and a second is on the way. Hill shared that she and Director Wieber addressed the NLA group Monday on the topic of synergy between Libraries and Foundations, and provided examples of how to work as a team. Brief discussion followed.

Central Library Update

Director Wieber gave an update on the process. He noted that the Urban Design Committee's review meeting will be held April 7, and will include a conversation about the rooftop. Any major changes to the design may mean revisiting the Committee. Wieber gave a review of the planned spaces, noting that the stairway in the atrium will act as a sculptural center point, surrounded by outside light from the large windows. The windows themselves will utilize a Luxewall high thermal performance system. An automated holds pickup and book return system will be used in the elevator lobby for 24/7 service. He noted that plans for the opening collection are being refined.

Caleb Swanson from Project Control noted that while costs have been trimmed, the expanded Capital Campaign provides the option to continue to include good features like the alley façade. Design development will continue through mid-May. Interior demolition is slated to begin in early June. He noted that the public art piece formerly on the corner of 12th and O has been relocated to the Children's Zoo. LES is providing input on the electrical design and integration of solar panels. Brief discussion followed.

Volunteer Appreciation

Anderson Branch Manager, Kim Shelley provided a report on Volunteer activity in 2025. She reported that 208 volunteers donated nearly 5,600 hours. Many participated by shelving books, while others helped design bulletin boards, created book bundles and assisted with Summer Reading Challenge events. She noted that Volunteer Teen Advisory Boards at each location give input on teen programs, collections and spaces. She invited Board members to attend the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Banquet on Sunday, April 19th.

NEW BUSINESS

*Approval of new Code of Conduct Policy

Director Wieber shared that a task force including staff from across the system met to discuss changes and improvements to the library's security procedures. Policies from other libraries were reviewed and it was decided that the new Code of Conduct policy should replace the existing Library Rules policy to flip the script from what patrons cannot do in the library to a statement about positive expectations for safe and respectful behavior. Brief discussion followed. Hale moved approval. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

*Approval of updated Behavior Policy

Wieber shared that the policy had been updated in various ways, including shifting a 3-day suspension to a 7-day suspension to allow for sufficient time for all staff involved to participate in the responses to rule breakers. Multiple warnings were reduced to a single warning for level one infractions, the response to patrons with hygiene issues was altered to allow for exclusion with the opportunity to return as soon as the situation can be remedied, language was updated with respect to security staff, bullying, and directing hate speech at staff and guards. Finally, the option of a Permanent ban was included for incidents involving assault. Brief discussion followed. Shaw moved approval. Moore seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

***Approval of Volunteer Proclamation**

President Ostrowicki read the Proclamation into the record:

During National Volunteer Week, we acknowledge the many volunteers who generously give their time and talents to help improve the lives of others. Their acts of kindness help to build a better and brighter future for Lincoln City Libraries and the citizens it serves.

The Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries
hereby proclaims April 19-25, 2026

Volunteer Appreciation Week

at Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Adopted this 17th day of March in the year 2026

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

***Approval of 1-year Renewal of B.M.I. Janitorial Contract**

Assistant Director Glaesemann briefly reviewed the tasks B.M.I. completes daily for the libraries, and explained this is the final renewal available for the contract, next year it will be rebid. She noted the contracted amount has risen only \$1,500 and noted that janitorial workers clean the facilities daily and are available on call for emergency clean up situations. There was no discussion. Dunlap motioned approval. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared the poem, "Chance" by Molly Peacock. She shared her appreciation of the synergy between the Library Board and the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Board. Quarterly meetings have been scheduled, where strategies, goals and fundraising are discussed and event information is shared. She then reviewed the goals created at the beginning of her tenure and updated the Board on their positive progress. She also shared the goal of elevating the library's strategic plan goals to the Board and working to assist in their execution.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann shared a hiring report, including the successful funding of the Summer Internship program. Interns will plan to join the June Board Meeting. Glaesemann updated the Board on uses of the new Patron Point software to communicate information on the Winter Reading Challenge, Welcome messages for new cardholders, One Book One Lincoln and upcoming Summer Reading Challenge events. Brief discussion followed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber introduced Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator, Ali Bousquet to share information on the two new Bookmobiles which have newly arrived. A part time position has been added to the Outreach team to accommodate use of the two vehicles. The Collection Model has been updated to keep new, hot titles on the bookmobiles while still allowing flexibility to change titles to suit each visit. The Service Model has also changed from a strict routine of city/county sites to a combination of regular sites with new stops, popup and on-the-fly stops as well as providing programming like storytimes and activities at each stop. Driver training is happening now, and the new collections will be loaded into the vehicles in late March. A press conference introducing them is scheduled for April 7th, and the grand reveal of the vehicles is scheduled for April 11th with both a City stop downtown at Iron Horse Park featuring the Lug Nuts ukulele group, and a County stop in Waverly. Both vehicles will hit the road starting April 13th.

Wieber noted that April 11th is also the date of the upcoming library program, "Stories of Us: A Celebration of Multi-Cultural Voices" from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Bennett Martin, featuring children's author, Janice Harrington and Nebraska

State Poet, Jewel Rodgers. He also shared that artist Jevon Woods' artwork, "The Rally" has found a permanent home at Gere Branch Library, the celebration for which is coming up on April 24 at 11:00 a.m. and finally, there is a press conference planned for April or early May to announce the Resource Care worker newly established at Bennett Martin via Centerpointe. More details will be forthcoming. Brief discussion followed.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki noted that the grand opening of the new Omaha Public Library is Sunday, April 19th and suggested the board make the trip to Omaha for a tour. Shaw asked about plans at the new Central Library for football Saturdays, and several ideas were floated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.