# Library Board Meeting Minutes

**TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026, 8:00 a.m.**
**BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY**
**LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jacki Ostrowicki, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore, Joe Shaw arrived later. Absent: Terri Dunlap, Lisa Hale, Nichole Bogen

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries; Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Jennifer Hatfield, LeeAnn Sergeant, Sarah Dale. Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill. Project Control liaison, Anthony Fitzgerald.

## 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 was 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. Shaw moved approval of the Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** – Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF JUNE, 2026 MEETING MINUTES*

Gerteisen moved approval of the June Minutes. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

No report.

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Met – discussed CIP priorities and changes.

### Committee on Technology

Did not meet.

### Committee on Finance

Regularly scheduled meeting next week will need to be rescheduled.

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures*

In Treasurer Dunlap's absence, Ostrowicki reported that Total Operational Expenditures from June 2026 were $913,777.74. Total Expenditures from Other Funds were %516,052.77 for a Total of $1,429,830.51. There was no discussion. Beutler moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – YAY. Motion carried 4-0. Shaw arrived at this time.

## OTHER REPORTS

### Review of Donations and Grants

Wieber introduced Library Accountant, Jennifer Hatfield. Hatfield reviewed each fund individually, explained where they come from, what they're used for and how much each is worth. There was some discussion about what projects some of these funds will possibly be used for within the next few years, including an RFID system for checking materials in and out more efficiently.

### Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared her thanks for members who have been meeting and participating in the new Central Library campaign. The new website is facilitating donations and new Foundation Friends coming directly into the Foundation. She shared various events, and noted that the Capital Campaign is up to $21.5 million, with several requests still pending. There was brief discussion.

### Central Library Update

Director Wieber gave the floor to Anthony Fitzgerald from Project Control. Fitzgerald reported on the proposal from Sampson Construction. The design is 60-70% complete and allows for more specific pricing for our needs. Their numbers are currently high, but the process has begun to adjust what's needed to bring it back in line with budget. He shared specifics from their methods of approach, showing that some simple alternatives can have a large impact. The project is on time to begin demolition this fall. Brief discussion followed. Wieber gave an update on the solar array and the leases in negotiation with community partners with the goal of having leases complete by September.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Approval of Behavior Policy Update*

Wieber shared the three simple changes – to add "illicit drugs" to the line regarding alcohol prohibition, the addition of email notification as well as mailed notification to individuals appealing their bans, and adding that an appeal meeting should last no longer than thirty minutes. There was brief discussion. Shaw moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Beutler – YAY. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Monthly Municipal Code Changes*

Wieber introduced the changes from the Law Department, and notified the Board that changes to the entire Code will be approved by the City Council. Wieber reviewed the Code changes relevant to libraries, including 2.25.040 add Library Board will conduct an ***annual*** performance review. The language was changed around "Classified Employees" that showed Library Board Members as employees instead of correctly as a volunteer board.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared a poem titled, "How to Read a Poem" by Pamela Spiro Wagner. She shared that the new Board President and officers will be announced at August's meeting. She reviewed the past year, and shared highlights. Discussion followed.

## ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann gave a staffing update, including the upcoming retirement of long time Gere Branch Library Manager, Brenda Ealey. She shared that recent Central Library work led to Libraries assisting the City with creating a city-wide recycling plan. Changes to our donations policy may come about to comply.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber shared that the Architects have won an interior design award for the new Central Library, that was presented at the ALA convention in Chicago in June. Wieber then walked the Board through how to access the new database, LinkedIn Learning, that will be shared both by patrons but with all City Staff as well. It's a wonderful opportunity for lifelong learning straight from the library catalog.

## BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki opened the floor for observations. She shared that the LA library is celebrating their 100th, they have a library built by Goodhue (the NE Capitol architect), inspiring ideas for LCL's 150th next year. Moore shared hearing lots of good chatter about the One Book One Lincoln finalists and vote.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.