

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Shaw called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law and today's agenda were posted and available for review. Director Wieber noted that Vice-President Ostrowicki would be late arriving, and thus those gathered would proceed with the portions of the meeting not requiring her vote until her arrival.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

No Report

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Director Wieber noted the committee is scheduled to meet next on March 26.

Committee on Technology

No Report

Committee on Finance

Director Wieber noted that the Finance Committee met on Monday, February 24, with Hale, Bogen, Accountant Ali Larson and the Director Wieber attending. Larson presented an overview of Keno funds over the past ten years, which will be shared with the full Board at the April meeting.

Treasurer Hale reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for February were \$934,498.88. The Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$76,708.84 for a Total of \$1,011,207.72. Hale moved approval. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

One Book One Lincoln

One Book One Lincoln Board Liaison, Morgan Gerteisen reported that the committee met on March 5th and narrowed 45 titles down to 24. They will meet again the 26th to further narrow the finalists to 12. She commented that both the committee and the books have been excellent.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Contract Renewal with BMI for Janitorial Services*

Director Wieber explained that the original contract with BMI was signed in 2023 and includes the option for three renewals. The contract was renewed in 2024, and the intent is to renew for 2025 today. There is a slight increase in the fee, up to \$130,000. Monthly cleaning costs run \$1,000-\$3,000 per branch. We have been very pleased with their work and would like to stay with them. Hale moved approval of the amendment. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler– AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

At this time, Vice President Ostrowicki arrived. President Shaw indicated that the meeting would return to scheduled items requiring her Board vote.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*

President Shaw noted that the approval of the November minutes has waited until today for enough members of the Board who were present that day to vote. Sloan moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Sloan – AYE. Beutler and Shaw abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with two abstentions.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Beutler motioned approval of the February minutes. Sloan seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Sloan, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Shaw – AYE. Gerteisen and Hale abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with two abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS continued...

2024 Volunteer Report – Anderson/Bethany Library Manager, Kim Shelley

Shelley reported that Lincoln City Libraries had 188 volunteers in 2024. She noted that this is a smaller number than previous years, and the results include not only the existing volunteers are working more hours, but they're working on more substantial projects and creating better relationships with staff. Volunteer Martha Kingsbury has donated 20 years of service. She also worked 10 years at Gere as a Library Assistant II, and has also worked temp positions from time to time.

The Annual Volunteer Banquet will be held Saturday, April 13 at College View church. Refreshments will be served at 2:30 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 3:00 p.m. Mayor Gaylor Baird unfortunately has another commitment, so City Council member Tom Beckius will attend in her stead. Brief discussion followed.

Approval of the Volunteer Proclamation*

Manager Kim Shelley read the Proclamation aloud:

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 20-26, 2025 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK at Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shaw shared that this is an exciting time to be on the Library Board with large projects moving forward. He encouraged members to take note and be prepared for upcoming work.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared that Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) staff periodically ask for refreshers on de-escalation training. Walt Manager, Wyatt Packard and Public Services Coordinator, LeeAnn Sergeant met with Centerpointe to discuss their classroom offerings. While LCL staff have attended trainings on the topic, often times teachers aren't familiar with the culture of libraries. Sergeant and Packard met with trainers at Centerpointe who were already planning classes, which is exciting as they are already intimately familiar with the challenges faced at the library. LCL will contract with Centerpointe for a mandatory staff training, scheduled in late April/early May. They will provide multiple 90-minute sessions for staff which should be very beneficial.

Staffing update:

Youth Librarian, Claire Saathoff started March 3rd at Bennett Martin. Kate Humphries will start March 27 as the Read Aloud Librarian. Postings of a 40-hour position at Gere and South closed Sunday. Summer outreach temps open until March 23. Summer intern positions are open thru March 30. Additionally, Glaesemann has been working with the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development's "First Job Lincoln" program – where high school juniors and seniors can experience job shadowing. Support Services, the Heritage Room and Walt public service will all host job shadowing students this summer.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber shared that March 17th was the Nebraska Library Association's (NLA) annual Advocacy Day where library workers advocate to their State legislators on legislation impacting libraries. Only one bill (LB390) for school libraries, has some traction, which would cause all public schools to maintain a library catalog and notify parents of what students are checking out from their school libraries. A change in the language eliminating the requirement for an "online" catalog, will ease the potential burden for smaller school libraries who only maintain an offline catalog. Hale asked if a requirement for parental notification is imminent for public libraries? Wieber responded no, not currently but the process would be monitored. LCL remains neutral on this bill. Advocacy Day is a good chance to meet with others from the state. Bennett Martin hosted an afternoon program featuring speakers on book challenges and First Amendment Law presentations.

Wieber shared that President Trump signed an Executive Order last Friday which would eliminate funding for seven different programs including the Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS) which distributes funding to states to be distributed to libraries. This funding helps pay for databases and special grants. A recent \$4,600 library improvement grant through the Nebraska Library Commission is still on pause.

The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) annual program, held in partnership with Lincoln Public Schools, Writer's Write, is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th. This year 58 students and six authors will gather to practice skills, hear from professionals, and write. Once their work is completed is archived permanently in the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors.

Director Wieber talked about the new Staff Innovation Grant. It will encourage staff to be creative, come up with new ideas, things that may not fit into the budget right now, but may be good pilots for future programs. This process gives staff experience with creativity and budgeting/project management. The Committee consists entirely of LCL staff, headed by Glaesemann and including Walt Manager Wyatt Packard; Gere/South Library Service Specialist Marcy Graybill; Bookmobile librarian Rebecca Hueske; Support Services Manager, Katy Murtha; Library Service Associate Lisa Voss; and Library aide Lauren Niedergeses which is different from previous experiments at other libraries that had Foundation oversight. The plan is for \$10,000 of Foundation or other donation money to be used annually. Before this, LCL didn't have a consistent plan for spending such funds. Grant applications can be made for anywhere from \$300-\$3,000, and the plan must tie into strategic plan goals.

Brief discussion followed. Board members gave kudos to the team, commented that it's a great plan that gives staff autonomy, and goes hand in hand with the individual budgets for staff. This makes the entire process more transparent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.