

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries; Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Jennifer Hatfield, Sarah Dale, Rebecca Aracena, LeeAnn Sergeant. Other City Staff: Jocelyn Golden, Senior Atty. Foundation for LCL Exec Dir. Tiffani Hill and BVH liaison, Anthony

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Hale called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

Hale noted that the agenda was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Beutler moved approval of the Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Yost, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment. At this time, Director Wieber introduced and welcomed new Library Board Member, Jeff Yost. Yost shared his interests for the library, and that his son had an excellent experience over this summer as one of the Summer Library Interns.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST, 2026 MEETING MINUTES*

Ostrowicki moved approval of the Minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Yost, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Met August 25. The committee reviewed the results of the Virtual Services department's Visioning Workshop and looked at successes and challenges. Discussion centered around various changes to how public computers are offered - from individual CPUs in a large lab setting to all-in-one machines or laptops that might free up space for collections and seating. They discussed the best way to offer computer services at the new building project. Brief discussion followed.

Committee on Finance

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures*

Treasurer Morgan Gerteisen shared the Recap of Expenditures for August, 2026. Total Operational Expenditures were \$971,996.15. Total Expenditures from Other Funds was \$149,284.00 for Total Expenditures of \$1,121,280.15. Ostrowicki

moved approval. Dunlap seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Yost, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale – YAY. Motion passed 7-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Foundation Director Tiffani Hill shared that August was great. Booked for the Night and Website sales brought in \$21,000. New Friends of the Library continue to join. Recommendations on updating Foundation Bylaws were reviewed. Nominations for new members are upcoming, and the board will decide how many new members to bring on. FLCL's partnership from Eleanor Creative has ended. FLCL intern, Kit has been doing all marketing. The latest fundraising number is \$23.7 million. Hill shared they have been seeing lots of forward movement and momentum.

One Book One Lincoln

Gerteisen shared information about the voting totals and the winning title, *Culpability*. She noted that changing the October Board Meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on October 20 will give all members the opportunity to attend the Author visit at Lincoln High School at 7:00 p.m. She noted that several committee members are terming out this year, and applications will be accepted for new members. Additionally, nominations for next year's title are also open. Brief discussion followed.

Central Library Update

Director Wieber gave an update on the Central Library project. He shared that the project budget increase totals \$1.6 million which will come from the cash reserve. The project total is now at \$60.4 million. Use of cash reserve funds go through the City Council for approval. The project currently has Mayoral approval, once Council approves it, then next year the budget will be amended to include the additional \$1.6 million. Discussion continued regarding leases and scheduling. Demolition work is slated to begin in November. Sampson wants to begin asap. Expect a kickoff after the Mayor's State of the City address on October 6.

Digital Collection Development

Collections Coordinator, Rebecca Aracena, reviewed Collection Processes and data from FY 25-26. She shared that while circulation of physical items is high, it's dropping while the more expensive digital circulation continues to go up. Last fiscal year, 53.5% of the annual budget went to digital items. She shared insights on how that impacts our physical spaces as well as our budget and the balance of our collections. She pointed out the significant differences in the way vendor offer their digital materials to libraries, and the comparative costs of each plan. One of the biggest bumps in LCL's planning came when LCL's largest vendor went out of business. It created havoc with materials that had been ordered and did not arrive and with finding other vendors quickly, all of whom were overwhelmed as well by that loss. Costs continue to rise while the budget does not. Formats change, demand increases and on top of that, LCL's two new Bookmobiles needed entirely brand-new collections. Solutions have involved new parameters for ordering, changes to the number of digital items purchased to meet demand, and a great deal of flexibility on the department's part to adapt to new processes and available materials.

NEW BUSINESS

Change to Published Meeting Dates and Times for October and November 2026

Director Wieber explained that the October Board Meeting was initially scheduled in the evening, and now that the One Book One Lincoln Author Visit has been scheduled on Oct. 20, a change is needed so that all can attend.

Original Schedule:

Oct. 20 – ~~6:00 p.m. at Walt~~
Nov. 17 – ~~8:00 a.m. at BMPL~~

Adjusted Schedule:

Oct. 20 – 8:00 a.m. at BMPL
Nov. 17 – 6:00 p.m. at Walt

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hale introduced the changes to this fiscal year's Board Committees and assignments. The Standing Technology Committee is being replaced by the new Operations Committee. The Purpose statement for the Operations Committee: To support the library Board of Trustees in oversight of effective operations of Lincoln City Libraries and implementation of priorities and the progress towards LCL's strategic goals. Hale will chair the Committee for the first year.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann gave a staffing update, listing the most recently filled positions and announced the beginning of interviews for the new Maintenance position. She reminded the Board that the Library's Staff Inservice Day was on Friday the 18th and Hale and Beutler would be in attendance – all are invited.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber shared some End of Fiscal Year figures. Thanks in part to the two new Bookmobiles and increased Outreach programming, program attendance is up by 20%. Circulation is up slightly .5%, Study Room attendance is up 20% and new card registrations are up 6%. WIFI, Computer and Website sessions are all up – 3, 4, and 5% respectively and Database use is up 29%. Overall use is up 13% over last year.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Hale opened the floor for Board Observations. Ostrowicki shared that the Foundation's *Booked for the Night* event was lovely and the room was full. She congratulated Hill for an excellent event. She then shared a New York Times article about the special collections being offered at other library systems, for example: power tools, dolls, artwork, neckties, and other locally relevant kits. She noted the importance of offering experiences in addition to other services. Glaesemann shared a new program at Gere where patrons can check out bike locks if they visit while riding on the nearby bike trail. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.