

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Joe Shaw, Dan Sloan, Patty Beutler, Terri Dunlap

Absent: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Morgan Gerteisen, Nichole Bogen

City of Lincoln Staff present: Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Sarah Dale, Jennifer Hatfield, LeeAnn Sergeant, Wyatt Packard, Lisa Olivigni. LCL Interns: Kya Branch – Walt, Erica Pearce – Gere, Carys Graham – BMPL, Drew Spencer – Eiseley, Eleanor Schmeichel – Outreach. Jocelyn Golden (Law Dept.), Rick Hoppe (Mayor's Aide). Tiffani Hill (FLCL) also present.

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 was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Dunlap moved approval. Sloan seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Shaw asked for a motion to approve the June 17th meeting minutes. Sloan motioned approval. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Sloan, Dunlap, Beutler – AYE. Motion passed 4-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Director Wieber reported that the committee met on Friday, July 11. They discussed issues related to elevators, a Central Library update and replacing the Library Superintendent's truck.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

In Treasurer Hale's absence, President Shaw reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for June were \$1,224,830.88. The Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$148,033.95 for a Total of 1,372,864.95. Beutler moved approval. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Tiffani Hill, Executive Director of FLCL reported that the Capital project is still at \$7.1 million, and there are \$2.1 million worth of funding requests pending that the Foundation will be hearing back on in the coming weeks. The Foundation executive committee met with Eleanor Creative to discuss rebranding and strategic planning, and the process is moving forward with good momentum. She reported that process improvements with the book sorting and donation work at Walt have been made and things are running smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Revised Library Rules Policy*

Director Wieber asked Administrative Aide Dale to summarize the changes to both policies. Dale provided information as to why the following changes had been requested: Removing the section of the Library Rules Policy prohibiting patrons from photographing or taking video of other patrons without permission brought it into line with Nebraska Law which holds that a library is a public place where the expectation of privacy is limited, and permits photography of other members of the public without express permission. Dale then reviewed the changes to the Behavior Policy, including clarifying and defining the terms "Exclusion" and "Suspension" and using them consistently throughout the document, adding the language "Harassment on the basis of a protected class" to the level four section regarding hateful conduct directed at staff/vendors/customers to permit more than a 3-day suspension for the most severe cases of Harassment, and updating the examples of a 3-day suspension form and a banning form in the document. Sloan moved approval of the revised Library Rules Policy. Beutler seconded. Discussion followed. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Revised Behavior Policy*

Dunlap moved approval. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

Wyatt Packard Report on PLA and AARP Grants*

Director Wieber reported that Packard has been energetically seeking out funding sources. Packard shared that the Public Library Association (PLA) Digital Literacy grant provided \$10,000 and a curriculum for classes. LCL was one of two Nebraska systems selected. With this, his team (LeeAnn Dynneson, Selena Shuffler, Yoel Swartz Taylor, and volunteer Erin Tinsley) provided twelve 90-minute workshops that reached 167 people, double the goal for the program. Twelve laptops were purchased to supply the classes, which were selected on the basis of their quality and life expectancy to enable multiple future uses. 97% of the students reported feeling more knowledgeable, more confident and more aware of library resources.

The second grant was the AARP Challenge Grant which provides money to make communities more livable. LCL was awarded \$5,838 which will be used to expand the Digital Literacy program with an additional six weekly workshops and twenty-four one-on-one Tech Time appointments, as well as tables, chairs and a supply cabinet. The former computer lab at Walt branch has been reimagined as a community technology room that provides tools like a TV and Zoom Room, iPads, tablets, learning materials, stem building skills and Lego sets that can be checked out for use in the room. Discussion followed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared a staffing update, the Virtual Services Network Admin is currently the only vacant position. She reported that Bennett Martin and Anderson libraries were called upon to act as Cooling Centers on Friday-Sunday (June 20-22). Staff stepped up at both locations. Part time and full-time staff switched schedules, worked extra hours and some, including Glaesemann, chipped in at other locations to make it work.

Glaesemann reported on her attendance at the American Library Association (ALA) conference in Philadelphia, where five other LCL staff members joined her. She reviewed sessions on Free Expression and using libraries for community "Placemaking." The new 20-hour LSA hired to work with the bookmobile team will be onboarded and trained by the time the new vehicles arrive.

Glaesemann shared that two new designs from City Communications are being considered for the two new bookmobiles. The first is set to arrive in September, the second in October.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber invited Eiseley/Williams Branch Manager Lisa Olivigni to introduce the Summer Interns. He noted that every year, we count on these interns to help do real library work.

Olivigni shared that the program, funded by the Nebraska Library Commission, pays the interns \$10/hour and the Library pitches in the additional \$3.50 per hour to meet minimum wage. She introduced Kya Branch from Walt, Erica Pearce from Gere, Carys Graham from Bennett Martin, Drew Spencer from Eiseley and Eleanor Schmeichel from Outreach. Interns shared information on their daily tasks and future plans.

Wieber then reviewed the Central Library project's process through the City Council – an introduction on July 14th of the CIP change, the Purchase Agreement and the Municipal Improvement Bonds. Public comment will be heard on the 21st, and the final council vote will be held on Monday, July 28.

He shared that he's been invited to speak about the Central Library Project to multiple community groups including the Downtown Lincoln Association board, Chamber of Commerce board, the Mayor's neighborhood roundtable, LIBA and various rotary clubs in addition to the scheduled community engagement open houses.

Wieber reported on the due diligence needed, including surveys on boundaries, asbestos, and a phase one environmental. Radar scanning of the floors and ceiling are also planned. Approval of the new BVH contract may require a special board meeting later in the month. He shared next steps, including deciding on a construction manager and a coffee shop for which the RFP processes will be used later this fall. Construction documents should be in order by late spring/early summer of 2026. Design development will continue this fall and next spring. Demo is scheduled May-September of 2026 with construction beginning in fall of 2026. Completion is slated for March of 2028. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.