

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Absent: Nichole Bogen

City of Lincoln Staff present: Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Rick Tast, Jennifer Jackson, LeeAnn Sergeant, Jennifer Hatfield. Former Board President, Dan Sloan. Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill.

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.

Dunlap moved approval of the Agenda. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Gerteisen moved to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Hale – Abstained. Motion passed 6-0 with one (1) abstention.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Met on November 26. Key points included: E-rate Consultation: The library plans to utilize an expert consultant, Infinity Communications, to manage the application process for E-rate funding. This will allow for discounts on materials for the new Central Library, including infrastructure. LinkedIn Learning: The meeting also touched on LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com), a video training resource. The library previously discontinued its subscription due to privacy concerns but is now returning to the service after a price reduction to \$13,000, with access available via name and library card number.

Committee on Finance

Did not meet.

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

Treasurer Dunlap shared that the Operational Expenditures for November 2025 were \$861,571.88. The Total of Expenditures of Other Funds was \$212,215.66 for Total Expenditures of \$1,073,787.54. Shaw motioned approval. Moore seconded. There was brief discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, 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 Foundation has raised \$10.05 million towards the new Central Library, surpassing the halfway point of its goal, with a year-end fundraising push planned. Key points from a recent meeting include financial updates showing increases in Book Nook/thrift sales and the NLHA balance, strategic goals focused on increasing Foundation support for libraries. There was brief discussion about tiered membership levels, and plans for January 2026 membership renewals.

One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)

Librarian Jen Jackson provided a report on the successful 2025 OBOL season. She indicated future seasons will have fewer small discussion groups to prioritize the popular author visit events. Participation in the reading portion of the 2025 One Book One Lincoln program appears to have doubled compared to previous years. To provide a more comprehensive view of engagement, program reporting now includes activity for all top ten finalists rather than just the top three.

Social media interaction reached record levels, largely driven by winning author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai. Her active engagement and global platform significantly boosted the visibility of the library's digital content throughout the season. The 2025 One Book One Lincoln season concluded with strong engagement, including 220 attendees at the author event and positive reception for the three finalist titles. While author participation enhanced the program's visibility, organizers noted a need to enhance online promotion for internal programming next year. The 2026 season will celebrate the 25th anniversary with year-round initiatives such as history retrospectives, reading challenges, and a public vote for a past favorite title. Event recordings are accessible on the Lincoln City Libraries YouTube channel.

Wieber added that the One Book One Lincoln program is established as the library's "signature event," demonstrating significant community impact with a \$12,000 annual budget. Organizers are currently seeking corporate sponsorships to support future growth. Other goals include specifically seeking diverse voices for the committee, including more male representatives, to ensure the committee reflects a broad range of perspectives. While the committee has successfully trended toward a younger demographic, the library will continue using social media and upcoming press releases to encourage nominations from all age groups.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval Foundation for LCL 2025 Agreements.

***FLCL and LCL Mutual Agreement**

Wieber noted that the annual review of the master agreement between the Library and the Foundation remains consistent with previous years, requiring only a date change for 2026. This foundational document, defines the expectations for both parties and establishes the collaborative tone of the relationship. Shaw motioned approval. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

***License Agreement for Office Space**

Wieber explained Lincoln City Libraries is maintaining an agreement with the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) regarding space at the Walt Branch Library. The Foundation will continue using an office at Walt Branch for \$1,100 per month. Future Plans: A dedicated space for the Foundation is planned for the new Central Library. Dunlap motioned approval. Shaw seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

***FLCL Book Sale Agreement**

Wieber showed that this agreement establishes the partnership – big, small or book nook sales, and ThriftBooks. Beutler motioned approval. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

FY 2024-2025 Security Incidents Report

Administrative Aide Sarah Dale presented a recap of 2024-2025 Incidents and Bans. Both are up slightly from last year due to increased staff attention to reporting incidents of harassment and possession of illegal substances. A Security Task Force has been formed to review processes, and make needed adjustments to the Behavior Policy, including the creation of a “Code of Conduct” to display expected behaviors, rather than focusing on rule breaking. Brief discussion followed. Hale left at this time.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ostrowicki discussed lasting impact of library services, board performance, and future strategic goals. She read aloud, Nikki Giovanni’s poem "My First Memory of Librarians" to highlight the profound impact of individual interactions and community care provided by library staff.

Ostrowicki shared the Board Survey Results, which confirmed the board is highly engaged and mission-driven. Areas identified for improvement included enhancing understanding of daily operations, improving internal information sharing, expanding community advocacy, and strengthening ties with the library foundation.

President's Goals (2026): The President outlined goals for the upcoming year. Strategic Alignment: Deepen board engagement with the new Central Library project. Advocacy: Foster a closer working relationship with library staff. Formalization: Document and formalize board processes, including a self-assessment. Shaw left at this time.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Glaesemann shared staffing and equipment updates for December 2025. There are currently two vacancies. Interviews have concluded for the Virtual Services position, and Zymmir Rose-McNeeLee is currently performing well in the HR clerk role. The new Bookmobiles have passed inspections after addressing minor issues such as loose cables and shelving. They are expected to arrive shortly and will be stored at a unit near 84th and Yankee Hill. The library plans to have the new bookmobiles on the road by March 2026. Graphics for the vehicles have been finalized and will be shared with the board soon.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Central Library project is moving forward despite being somewhat over budget, as organizers are actively working on value engineering and cost analysis to address the difference. The overall project budget is currently \$46.2 million. Lincoln City Libraries has secured a \$30,000 Carnegie grant. A \$10,000 grant from the Dillon Foundation for the Polley Music Library podcast booth is on hold until the new building is operational. Sampson Construction was selected as the general contractor in November 2025 and is currently working with the project team to refine cost estimates and plans.

Superintendent Miller is managing the process of surplussing existing furniture and equipment. Meetings are also underway with the Lincoln Electric System (LES) to discuss solar power opportunities and address challenges with the downtown electrical grid to create the new library’s all-electric design.

Patron Point: The new Patron Point software, a marketing automation platform for libraries, is being deployed this week to manage communications, including the upcoming Winter Reading Program email campaign.

Ryan introduced Caleb Swanson of Project Control who provided an update on the Central Library Project.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki thanked Wieber for inviting the board to the staff holiday breakfast. What a delight to see the staff and celebrate with staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.