

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries; Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Jennifer Hatfield, LeeAnn Sergeant, Sarah Dale. Other City staff: Senior Atty for City Law Dept, Jocelyn Golden. Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill; Project Control Project Manager, 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 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. moved approval of the Amended Agenda. Dunlap moved approval. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap – AYE. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF APRIL, 2026 MEETING MINUTES*

Gerteisen moved approval of the April Minutes. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 4-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Meeting next on May 19.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

Met on April 28 to review the biennial budget and looked at all funding requests in detail.

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures*

Treasurer Dunlap shared that the total operational expenditures for April, 2026 were \$1,284,050.82. The expenditures from other funds totaled \$902,669.53 for total monthly expenditures of \$2,186,720.35. Beutler motioned approval. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Hale, Dunlap – YAY. Motion passed 4-0. Shaw arrived at this time.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared fundraising progress, and shared information about upcoming fundraising events in June. On June 10th the Mayor will hold a press conference to introduce the public campaign. The kickoff event for the Public Fundraising Campaign will be held June 25th at the Foundation Community Gardens. Hale and Moore arrived at this time. Hill shared that final invitations are being mailed out today to the events. Give to Lincoln runs through the end of May. Brief discussion followed.

Central Library Update

Director Wieber gave an update on Central Library progress. He noted that Project "O" St. work will entail a water shut-off on Thursday, 5/21 and Bennett Martin will not open until 1:00 p.m. that day. Anthony Fitzgerald of Project Control shared information about recent meetings and upcoming lease agreements with library partners. Wieber shared that he's been learning about the public art process for Omaha's Central Library from their Director and has begun conversations with Public Art Lincoln. Work on the agreement with LES for the solar panel array is nearing completion. Brief discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared a poem titled, *Branch Library* by Edward Hirsch. She noted that two of the library's signature programs kick off at this time each year, the Summer Reading Challenge and the One Book One Lincoln Top-3 finalists open for voting. She shared that she took advantage of the moment to call attention to the library with an OPED in the Journal Star.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann shared that all the hiring for summer has been completed, and the onboarding has begun. She shared that the four Summer Interns will visit 29 Outreach sites weekly this summer. She reminded the board that July 25, 2027 Lincoln City Libraries will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Plans are afoot for a year-long celebration. The committee has been busy with ideas and board input is welcomed, please reach out to Jodene. Brief discussion followed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber shared One Book One Lincoln updates, and Gerteisen encouraged all to watch the top-ten book videos on Facebook or the library website. Sergeant reminded all that there is a reading challenge happening this year to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of One Book One Lincoln. Sign-up is at lincolnlibraries.org. Wieber commended staff on the great programming created for the summer and encouraged all to specifically note the multiple America 250 programs. He shared updates on the biennial budget process which he will provide a full report on at the June Board Meeting. He shared a review of the nomination process for a new Board Member currently in progress. Applications are available online. Moore left at this time. Ostrowicki commended soon-to-rotate Past President Shaw, who shared his positive experiences of being on the board.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Hale shared watching a dad teach his daughter how to use the catalog and then find her book at South, and Ostrowicki shared being enthusiastically asked for new Central Library updates from a non-library-related work group in Kearney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.