

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

ANDERSON BRANCH LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries; Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Jennifer Hatfield, Lisa Olivigni, Kimberly Shelley, Sarah Dale. Lincoln City Libraries Interns: Ashton Reichmuth, Reanna Othling, Harrison Yost, Fatima Aljumayaat, Naden Benbow and Rowen Satterfield. 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 6:00 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was 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. Gerteisen moved approval of the Agenda. Shaw seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF MAY, 2026 MEETING MINUTES*

Gerteisen moved approval of the May Minutes. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Moore arrived at this time. Ostrowicki stated that the Committee on Administration met regarding the selection of a new board member. They reviewed 18 applications, and interviewed three yesterday (June 15). Will discuss under New Business.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures*

Treasurer Dunlap reported that Total Operational Expenditures from May 2026 were \$933,243.13, Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$320,634.01 for a Total of \$1,253,877.14. 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 thanks to the entire board for their attendance at the joyful and energy filled Foundation mixer event. She noted that the Community Campaign is kicking off this month. The fundraising goal has risen to \$26.5 million, \$21.3 of which has already been raised. She gave updates on the Foundation's website changes and new volunteers and interns working together on the campaign. Brief discussion followed. Hale arrived at this time.

Central Library Update

Director Wieber gave an update on Central Library progress. Tomorrow (June 17) the Mayor's Office will hold a news conference to point to the June 25 event at the Foundation Gardens. Wieber shared that it is time for Sampson to go out for bids on the work lined up by the architects. Demolition is expected to begin around Labor Day. Leases, detailed space uses and plans for the third floor uses all continue through the planning process. Discussion followed.

Wieber introduced Lisa Olivigni, Eiseley and Williams Branch Manager to introduce the Summer Interns. Olivigni shared that the group is on their second group adventure. Past intern groups were very excited to do things together, so this year, the interviewers made sure everyone would be available for all the shared events. Each intern introduced themselves and gave some details about their history and experiences at their branches. Olivigni explained that the funding for the interns comes mostly from a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission, with additional funds added by Lincoln City Libraries to ensure the interns are earning minimum wage. Brief discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

**Approval of Recommendation for New Library Board Member*

President Ostrowicki spoke about the process of narrowing down the 18 applicants to three and interviews those three on Monday June, 15. The committee's choice for the next Library Board Member is Jeff Yost. Ostrowicki shared that Yost is President and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation and has decades of experience with working in government offices, advising boards, and is a strong believer in a community hub. Hale moved approval. Ostrowicki seconded. There was brief discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion passed 7-0.

**Approval of Holiday and Closing Dates for FY 2026-2027*

Director Wieber summarized the dates and how they are determined. There was brief discussion. Gerteisen moved approval. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion passed 7-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared a poem titled, "The Library" by Dasha Kelly Hamilton, the Poet Laureate of Wisconsin. She reviewed the Summer Reading and One Book One Lincoln programs, and reminded the board that last summer's Summer Reading numbers were record breaking and is looking forward to seeing how this summer compares. She reminded the board about the upcoming Community Campaign kickoff event and thanked the board for their advocacy and good work promoting the library.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann gave a staffing update, sharing that the new full-time positions for public service and the one new position for maintenance will likely be posted in July. She shared that we're losing two Librarians from Bennett Martin, and those positions will also be open soon.

Glaesemann gave an update on the programs created by the new Innovation Grants program, where LCL staff are encouraged to create new and innovative programs and services, and apply for a portion of the grant money allotted each year by the Foundation to make their ideas real. Recent programs have included *Checking Out Birds* where patrons visited 9-mile Prairie, many for the first time, to observe birdlife with the new binoculars funded by the grant. The program saw new visitors to the library, first library cards granted and new collaborations with community groups

fostered. She shared the successes of other programs, including the *Mini RenFaire* at Walt, the new Switch at Bennett Martin and various programs involving working on, swapping and even racing to complete puzzles in teams. Program planners have learned great lessons about collaborations, contracts, budgets, progress reporting and promotion. Discussion followed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber introduced Anderson and Bethany Branch Manager, Kimberly Shelley who gave a brief update on Summer Reading and attendance. She noted how many Outreach events her staff attends regularly to ensure that folks in the Northeast part of town get excellent service. She reported that her staff has such good relationships with neighborhood families that sometimes their regular patrons call in to let staff know if they won't be in for a while, so nobody worries.

Wieber gave an update on activities surrounding the planning for the new Central Library, notably plans for decommissioning Bennett Martin. He also shared that plans to accommodate new services like the teaching kitchen, Makerspace, an RFID system and Heritage Room/Polley collaborations are beginning now.

Wieber gave an overview of the Library budget. He shared that the library is getting a 23% budget increase in the next year, mainly for new staff and debt service payments. There will be no cuts to services or hours. Year two will see some increased Central Library costs, which he will have more detail on as this year proceeds. CIP amounts are still available and will be used. He gave a breakdown of the funding summary. Discussion followed.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki opened the floor for observations. Beutler shared that she attended Discovery Days at East Campus and one of the new Bookmobiles was in attendance, and filled with people. Beutler said there was a line to check books out. Moore had positive comments about Ostrowicki's op-ed. Ostrowicki gave a shout out to Mr. Greg at South Branch who has known their family since their daughter was born. Bogen shared how grateful she was that Walt Branch was so convenient to her daughter's high school and great for after-school time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.